

Jordan Times

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Lebanese president urges unity

BEIRUT (R) — President Elias Hrawi appealed for peace and unity in a new year's message Saturday and said Lebanon had to be completely rebuilt. "I did not take office to manage the chaos and the divisions. I have one objective and that is to save Lebanon," Hrawi said. The Christian head of state was elected Nov. 24, two days after his predecessor Rene Muawad was assassinated by a bomb. "I don't want to say this on the eve of a new year to spoil your joy... but everything in our country needs reconstruction — mass, society, the administration," Hrawi said. "It is time for the bleeding and violence in Lebanon to end and the war of others on our soil to stop," said Hrawi, who lives in an airbase in eastern Bekaa Valley. At least 130,000 people have been killed in Lebanon since civil war erupted in 1975, leaving few of the 3.5 million population untouched. "My hand is extended to every one of you to correct the mistakes of the past, treat the problems of the present and together pave the way to a bright future," he said. Christian General Michel Aoun, a bitter opponent of Syria's military presence in Lebanon, has refused to recognise Hrawi's authority.

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Deputies air mild reservations to scalding criticism, urge faster liberalisation

Lower House debates cabinet programme

By Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday plunged into one of its most important tasks of taking a confidence vote in the government, with 19 deputies airing their views — ranging from mild "reservations" to scalding criticism — of the executive authorities' programme of action outlined to the House by Prime Minister Mo'awad Badran.

Observers and deputies said following the session that the chances of Badran securing the required vote remained strong. They said that the House's mood was influenced by the fiery speeches of some deputies who, while essentially making the same points and demands, resorted to "personal attacks" against Badran. Even some who said they would not vote in favour of the government expressed resentment that "political issues were reduced to personal vendettas."

who addressed the nine-hour session on Saturday hailed Jordan's liberalisation drive but called for a complete removal of martial law, release of all political prisoners, investigation into government corruption and a permanent halt to what was described as security excesses.

Islamists and former officials, was the performance of Badran during his two earlier terms as prime minister and his background as head of the General Intelligence Department. What appeared to be deliberately downplayed in the barracks was the measures that the Badran government has already announced in the way of striking political concessions as the forerunner for full democratic life in the Kingdom.

However, many observers also interpreted the wide range of "reservations" raised by deputies Saturday as a reflection of the emerging political trends following the country's first general elections in 22 years held last November.

In a sign of the government's commitment to openness and tolerance, the state-owned Jordan News Agency, Petra, carried long excerpts from deputies' speeches, some of which included attacks against the government. Although government-run television and radio did not broadcast some "critical parts" of the comments, deputies declaring their refusal to give the government the vote of confidence and the audience applause in response to such declarations were broadcast on television.

The session was attended by some 700 spectators, many of whom had staked positions outside the gates of the parliament house as early as 7 a.m. to secure a seat inside the chambers. Applause and whistling interrupted the speeches of many deputies despite repeated calls by Speaker Suleiman Arar for audience discipline.

The loudest applause was accorded to the most outspoken critics of the government and who called on Badran to stop "the interference in citizens' daily lives" by the General Intelligence Department.

U.S.-Nicaragua row erupts in Panama City

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — U.S. soldiers who searched the residence of the Nicaraguan ambassador in Panama and sparked a diplomatic row found a large arsenal of weapons, including hand grenades, anti-tank weapons and assault rifles, the U.S. army said Saturday.

Nicaraguan Ambassador Antonio Ferrey said his house was protected by diplomatic immunity, but U.S. officials contended Ferrey's official residence was elsewhere and the house did not have the protection of diplomatic status.

Hours after the raid Friday night, Nicaragua ordered the expulsion of 20 U.S. diplomats from Managua, saying the American action had violated international diplomatic norms.

Washington has also quarrelled with the Vatican over its tactics at the Vatican embassy in Panama, which has been surrounded by U.S. troops since ousted strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega took refuge there on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve.

The goal of the U.S. invasion of Panama on Dec. 20, which was condemned by the United Nations General Assembly Friday (see page 9), was Noriega's capture. He has been charged in the United States with drug trafficking.

The United States wants to put Noriega on trial. But the Vatican, citing its tradition of sanctuary, has refused to hand him over. There was no change in the situation Saturday, a U.S. army spokesman said.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls Friday called the United States an "occupying power" in Panama and said that harassment by U.S. troops outside the mission, including the playing of loud rock music, was unacceptable and a "very serious matter."

On Saturday, in its first statement since the affair began, the Vatican's secretariat of state said that its ambassador in Panama had no intention of helping Noriega evade justice by giving him refuge. The statement said Vatican-U.S. talks were seeking a "just solution."

Navarro declined to comment on the state of the negotiations. He said the Vatican still had not received a formal request from the new Panamanian government to hand over Noriega.

Earlier, Navarro said the loud music played by U.S. troops outside the Vatican embassy in Panama was not helping talks on what to do with Noriega.

"If this is going to continue, further steps will be taken" by the Vatican, Navarro said without elaborating.

The rap and rock music, which has included numerous taunting songs, seemed intended to torment Noriega.

U.S. Southern Command spokesman Colonel Ronald Sconyers said U.S. soldiers entered and searched the Nicaraguan ambassador's house "with good cause."

They were acting on information from a Panamanian citizen that the house contained a large arms cache, he said. Ferrey told the soldiers the house contained a few weapons, Sconyers said.

"The weapons and munitions found were in fact an arsenal far in excess of a few weapons we were told to find in the house," Sconyers told a news conference.

A partial list of weapons found included numerous hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank weapons, four Uzi submachine guns, machetes, a variety of magazines, small weapons, 11 AK-47 assault rifles, 10 rifles, bayonets, short-model airborne AK-47s, shotguns, night sticks and up to 1,000 rounds of ammunition, Sconyers said.

Journalists who visited the house afterwards said it was turned upside down, with clothes emptied from drawers and possessions lying on the floor.

The Soviet Union Saturday demanded that the United States withdraw its invasion troops from Panama immediately.

The Foreign Ministry called in U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock and expressed displeasure with the American military intervention, the official Soviet news agency TASS said.

TASS said First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh called on U.S. forces to pull out of the Central American state.

"It was again declared that the interests of normalisation and stabilisation of the situation in the Central American region demand the immediate withdrawal of American forces from Panama," TASS said.

Horn told Interim President Ion Iliescu that Hungary wants to help Romania.

"We wish full success to your cause. You can count on the Hungarian people's support and solidarity," Horn said, according to the Romanian state news agency Agerpres.

Iliescu told Romanian television that previous tensions in Romanian-Hungarian relations "were artificially fostered by Ceausescu."

PLO intervenes to ease Amal-Hizbollah battle

BEIRUT (R) — Fierce fighting between rival Shi'ite militias eased in South Lebanon after Palestinian fighters guerrilla-style to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat were deployed in the area, security sources said.

They said the "threat of explosions from battles between the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and the Syrian-backed Amal militia tapered off late Friday as dozens of PLO fighters took up positions in the Iqlim Al Tufah area south of Beirut.

"Our military presence on the battleground has become a disengagement force. We can now guarantee that the combat area is very limited," Zaid Wehbeh, Arafat's representative in Lebanon, told Reuters. He said Arafat made the decision.

But security sources said fighting may resume in parts of the battle zone not covered by the PLO fighters.

Street-to-street battles with artillery, rocket and mortar fire raged before the deployment of PLO fighters, killing five people and wounding 15.

Hizbollah and Amal fighters launched attacks and counter-attacks in villages in Iqlim Al Tufah, 40 kilometres South of Beirut, but positions on the ground were not changed.

Palestinian sources said the deployment of PLO fighters was aimed at stopping Hizbollah from gaining more ground in the direction of two Palestinian camps in the port city of Sidon where tens of thousands of refugees live.

Iranian envoy Mohammad Ali Besharati left Beirut late Friday after his mediation efforts to halt the battles that have killed 55 people and wounded 215 in seven days failed to impose a ceasefire Wednesday.

Black smoke billowed over the stone houses at the villages of Jarjoub, Kfar Milki, Kfar Hitti and Kfar Fila and rescue workers could not get near to evacuate casualties.

Hizbollah Secretary General Sheikh Sonhbi Toufaily told a news conference in Beirut's southern suburbs Friday the fighting would continue until Amal accepted unconditional talks.

"Amal should stop the war and declare a ceasefire and sit down (for talks) to solve all the problems. If it doesn't do that Amal will be responsible for the displacement of people, the killing of children and the destruction of homes," he said.

The bearded Toufaily said Hizbollah would not withdraw from its newly captured positions before a ceasefire was in place and talks with Amal had begun.

Amal leader Nabih Berri, addressing hundreds of supporters in South Lebanon, said Hizbollah has "a historic chance, a last chance to repent and pull out."

Some of those who took part in the bloody overthrow of the Ceausescu dictatorship in the last two weeks threatened to take to the streets again to press for full political rights.

The old structures are still fully in place and too many of those who just weeks ago were speaking in the name of Ceausescu now talk of democracy," said Ion Matei, one of the emerging political activists.

Matei, a chemistry teacher and chairman of the newly-founded Romanian Resurrection Party, said he had so far been unable to publish his party's 18-point manifesto and the names and addresses of its organisers in the mass media.

The newspapers and broadcasting media are still mostly in the hands of members of the Communist Party, the administrative vehicle for Ceausescu's autocratic power.

"The party has politically ceased to function at present, but its whole personnel structure exists," said one of Matei's teacher colleagues.

The National Salvation Front faces colossal tasks in building democracy in a country that has been subject to autocratic rule for much of its history.

It has appealed for patience while it tackles urgent economic and social problems.

But the government also said it had the right to issue decrees that

Among other measures designed to appease the hard-pressed 23 million Romanians, the National Salvation Front eliminated the food ration coupons that kept people on a diet reminiscent of wartime and stopped food exports to increase the food supply.

Earlier, the leadership changed the country's official name from the Socialist Republic of Romania to just Romania and removed the Communist symbol from the flag.

However, Budapest Radio quoted Iliescu as saying in an interview that members of the



The Lower House of Parliament in session Saturday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alam)

Tigre rebels claim 8,200 troops killed

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Anti-government rebels in northern Ethiopia said Saturday they killed or wounded 8,200 troops when they captured the town of Debre Tabor in Gondar province after heavy fighting last week.

Giving details of the clashes first reported last Wednesday, the clandestine radio of the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebels also captured 2,220 soldiers in the fighting at Debre Tabor, 320 kilometres north west of Addis Ababa.

The radio, monitored in Nairobi, gave no details of rebel losses during the fighting between Dec. 20 and 26 and no independent confirmation of the report was immediately available.

It said rebel forces also seized 5,400 small arms, 35 trucks and what it called a large arsenal of ammunition.

A number of young men conscripted to fight for the army had surrendered and joined the TPLF's small ally the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), the radio said.

The TPLF and EPDM, fighting together as the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, control the whole of northern Tigre province and since the end of August have pushed south to capture large areas of Gondar, Wollo and Shoa.

The rebels are seeking to topple the Soviet-backed government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam and set up a broader-based government.

Rains in south

As severe drought threatens a new famine for millions in northern Ethiopia, heavy rain could

spoil a bumper crop in the south, relief officials in Addis Ababa said Saturday.

The harvest-time downpour in the south follows estimates that in the dry north two to five million people will need food aid next year.

Officials, contacted by telephone from Nairobi, said the last two weeks of heavy rain was feared to have caused serious damage to the grain crop being harvested in the central province of Shoa and the southwestern provinces of Wolega and Illubabor.

"It is fairly wet, there is some concern at the moment," David Morton, the representative of the U.N. World Food Programme in Ethiopia, told Reuters.

The officials, most of whom asked not to be identified, said it was too early to estimate the rain damage, which has particularly hit tef — a small grain which is the staple foodstuff of Ethiopia's densely populated highlands.

Tef's tiny grains are easily knocked off their short stems by rain or high wind when the crop approaches maturity.

One relief official said the crop damage in central and southern Ethiopia was very local and another said overall damage would probably be slight.

But the majority of the six officials contacted by Reuters thought there was considerable cause for concern.

They said the government was expected to assess the recent crop damage in the south when it presents a report on the overall food situation in Ethiopia in early January.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said

Tuesday Ethiopia would need 1.1 million tonnes of food aid to avoid famine in 1990, including 700,000 tonnes for drought victims in the north.

Using the standard yardstick of 15 kilograms of grain per person per month, 700,000 tonnes would be enough to feed 3.9 million people for a year.

Most of the drought victims in the north are in rebel-controlled areas, but the government is expected to give permission soon for consortium of church relief agencies to truck food into the rebel-occupied province of Tigre.

During the previous droughts of 1984-85 and 1987-88, the government refused to allow relief agencies to distribute food in rebel areas.

However, rebel advances since then have made millions of destitute peasants in the north totally unreachable from government territory. The alternative to allowing food to reach them would be mass starvation.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tesfaye Dinka said last week that the government would shortly announce a framework for the Joint Relief Programme (JRP), a consortium of Ethiopian church charities, to distribute food in the north, including Tigre.

The government expelled most international relief agencies from war-torn northern Ethiopia in April 1988 and Tesfaye made clear that it did not intend to allow them back.

However, the relief officials said several foreign charities plan to support the JRP operation by making available food, trucks, warehouses and other support facilities.



ISRAELI RAID: Members of the Lebanese Communist Party stand in front of the wreckage of their base, destroyed by an Israeli air raid on South Lebanon. At least ten people were killed and 24 were wounded.

Turkey hails Bulgarian move on ethnic Turks

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey Saturday welcomed Bulgaria's decision to abandon its policy of assimilating ethnic Turks.

"We are pleased. It is a starting point," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said.

More than 300,000 mainly Muslim ethnic Turks fled from Bulgaria to Turkey earlier this year, claiming they were victims of a forced religious and cultural assimilation campaign.

But Bulgaria's new Communist authorities announced Friday that Muslims would no longer have to take Bulgarian names and would have the right to practise Islam.

"Turkey will respond to every positive step that the Bulgarian government takes in this regard," Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said in a written statement Friday night.

Bulgaria has an estimated 1.5 million ethnic Turks, leftovers from Ottoman rule. Under now disgraced former leader Todor Zhivkov, it consistently denied the existence of such a minority.

Yilmaz said he believed that a planned meeting in Kuwait Jan. 9 between the foreign ministers of Turkey and Bulgaria would open a fresh chapter in cooperation between the two countries.

Turkey seeks to secure property and other rights for those Turks who left Bulgaria and to protect the rights of those who chose to remain.

Turkey, of the NATO western

alliance, and Bulgaria, of the Warsaw Pact, held a first round of talks in Kuwait Oct. 30 before Zhivkov was ousted. They agreed then to meet again.

Officials say nearly 90,000 of the ethnic Turks who fled to Turkey have returned to Bulgaria and more are now expected to go back.

"People are going back but those who have found jobs will probably stay in Turkey," one official said.

Officials said that, depending on the outcome of the Jan. 9 talks, Turkey could increase economic and commercial cooperation with Bulgaria, almost nonexistent at present.

They said Turkey was prepared to offer export credits when relations improved.

The chairman of Bulgaria's national assembly, Stanko Todorov, told demonstrators Turks in Sofia Friday that in future "everybody in Bulgaria will be able to choose his name, religion and language freely."

Bulgaria's name-change campaign, which gathered momentum in 1984, also affected tens of thousands of Pomaks, or Muslim Slavs, living in the south of the country.

Muslims who had demonstrated since Thursday night in heavy snow outside parliament burst into tears and hugged one another on hearing the announcement that they could use their own names.

'Monster of Nabeul' arrested in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Police have arrested an itinerant fruit-seller on charges of kidnapping, raping and murdering at least nine Tunisian boys and three girls, after hunting the man dubbed the "monster of Nabeul".

Bodies of three children were found under the earth floor of the house where the 45-year-old man was living. Others were buried in orchards or riversides or dumped in abandoned wells after the children were strangled or stabbed in the heart, police said Saturday.

The children, aged between nine and 14 years, vanished over four years in the cap bon region of Tunisia.

The fruit-seller, who was also a part-time labourer, was named as Naceur Ben Abada Damergi, in the independent newspaper Le Temps. He was arrested Wednesday, police said.

Police stepped up their hunt

last July for the "monster of Nabeul" after concluding there was a link between cases of children disappearing in Nabeul province, about 50 kilometres south-east of Tunis.

They said they were trying to establish whether Damergi had killed any other children.

But Le Temps quoted him as saying: "I've accounted for them all, since whether I admit all of them or half, it's the same, I know that the rope is waiting for me somewhere."

The death penalty is still in force in Tunisia but no executions have taken place since President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali took office in November 1987.

Damergi, who was born in prison and has spent 15 years in jail for various offences, had been living alone since he and his wife divorced in 1983.

"This is the best new year's present Turks could have," opposition activist Rumen Vodenicharov told Reuters. "It's the beginning of the end of a tragedy which began as long ago as the early 1960s."

It was not immediately clear which authority had decided to row back on the assimilation policy pursued by Zhivkov.

Western diplomats said it appeared to have come from a snap meeting of the party's policy-making central committee called on Friday to meet continuing calls for change. Prominent politician Alexander Lilev accompanied Todorov to address the crowd, the radio said.

New communist party leader Petar Mladenov has been eager to prove himself willing to make changes in Bulgaria.

Bulgarian radio said Mladenov told Muslim leader Nedko Gendjev Thursday that a draft law before the national assembly would adopt new rules on religious activities.

They discussed issues "connected with giving fuller expression to the faith, as well as the use of Muslim names by believers who wished to do so," the radio said.

Vodenicharov said he thought most Muslims who had fled would now return. This would boost the economy, which came to a standstill in some regions when Turkish workers abandoned their jobs and homes.

Andreotti welcomes S. Yemen reforms

ADEN (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Saturday welcomed political and economic reforms in Marxist South Yemen and pledged to boost bilateral cooperation, Aden News Agency reported.

He quoted him as saying the leadership in the South was "reviewing the past and searching for solutions to old problems."

Andreotti was speaking at the end of a two-day visit to South Yemen which is liberalising political and economic policies ahead of a planned merger with the western north next year.

The Italian leader earlier visited North Yemen and discussed the possibility of setting up industrial projects there, the official news agency SABA said.

Lower House

(Continued from page 1)

Amman Deputy Yacoub Karrash, an independent Islamist.

Hindawi, who served as deputy prime minister under Rifai, charged that Badran, who served two terms as prime minister during the period 1976-1984, bears a considerable share of the responsibility for the country's foreign debt.

Hindawi gave what he said were figures to show that Badran also had borrowed from external sources to finance public spending and ill-fated development projects.

According to Hindawi, Jordan had a foreign debt of \$9.76 billion at the end of 1988.

Badran had borrowed over \$3.7 billion during his two terms, he said.

According to Hindawi, the Rifai government had borrowed \$4.4 billion and had spent \$3 billion in debt servicing.

The Irbid deputy named several major development projects whose costs had exceeded initial estimates after they were implemented under Badran.

Referring to a government stipulation, in a bid to eliminate corruption, that every senior government official has to account for his assets before and after assuming office, Hindawi said the precondition was effective only for the present and future. Saying that "corruption was part of Jordanian life" for the past 20 years, he asked whether wealthy officials could be required to explain how they had acquired such fortunes.

Castling doubts on the "credibility of the government's programme" Hindawi declared that he was withholding his vote of confidence in the Badran cabinet, which was formed earlier this month to replace the interim government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who took over from Rifai and saw the country through the Nov. 8 elections.

The Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamist sympathisers who have emerged as the strongest bloc in the House appeared divided over whether to give Badran the vote of confidence.

However, Balqa Deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat, speaking on behalf of a 20-member group comprising committed Muslim

brothers and independent sympathisers, demanded that Badran pledge to implement a strict application of Sharia, a total abolition of martial law and the return of public officials fired from their jobs for "political reasons" as well as restriction on the sale of alcohol.

Amman Deputy Karrash questioned Badran's ability to head a new government. "Is it possible for a former intelligence man to head a democratic government?" asked Karrash, who has said earlier that he was detained for six months in 1985 during the rule of Rifai.

Other speakers during Saturday's session included Nawaf Khawaleh (Mafrag), Nader Dhweirat (Irbid), Salameh Ghawer (Zarqa), Faisal Ben Jazi (southern tribes), Salam Al Freihat (Ajlun), Nayef Hadid (Amman), Awni Bashir (Balqa), Mohammad Alawneh (Irbid), Jamal Shreireh, Nayef Abu Tayyeh (southern tribes), Ata Shahwan (Amman), Husni Shiyah (Irbid), Mohammad Hnwieleh (Karak) and Samir Kavar (Balqa).

Most of comments dealt with the economic situation, agriculture and issues related to infrastructure, farmers credits and problems, education as well as health care, but none of the deputies made it clear whether they would vote for the government or not. But it was believed that most of them would.

Shayyah specifically referred to the defence law of 1939 and called for a quick repeal of the law.

Arabiyat said the 20-member group he represented had informed Badran earlier that they would "cooperate with a strong clean government." He described the government as "much below the level of our aspirations and the aspirations of our people."

However, he said that the group was willing to give the confidence vote to Badran provided that the government pledges stricter enforcement of Islamic laws, a definite date for lifting martial law — in force in the country since 1967 — reinstatement of civil servants who were dismissed for "security reasons" and curbs on sales of alcoholic beverages as well as increased backing for the intifada in the occupied territories.

Israelis charge rally

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian youth was wounded in the foot by a plastic bullet.

In the Gaza Strip, soldiers shot and wounded eight Palestinians during clashes, hospital officials said. The army placed several Gaza City neighbourhoods under curfew, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli, European and Palestinian participants in the peace chain joined in chants of "We want peace" and carried balloons with the rally's slogan, "1900 - Time for Peace."

Some 15,000 people — about a third more than organisers had anticipated — turned out for the "human chain" around the stone walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Fourteen hundred people came from Europe for the rally, most of them Italians.

The crowd was probably enough to encircle the wall of the Old City, a distance of 4,018 metres. But the participants were unevenly distributed, with the activists five deep in some areas

and up to a dozen metres apart in others.

After the activists' linked hands, thousands of balloons were released into the air to drift over the city.

People stood in silence for about 15 minutes, then some participants broke into a rousing version of "We Shall Overcome" and chanted "Two states for two people."

Organisers of the rally said the goal was to prove that dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians can lead to peace in the Middle East. The rally was sponsored by Italian peace groups, Israel's Peace Now and Palestinian activists.

David Cohen, an Argentine Jew who now lives in Jerusalem, drew a crowd at one corner of the Old City as he played peace songs on his guitar.

"We think it's time to say to the Israeli government that it is time to sit down at the table with Palestinians and make peace," Cohen said.

Romania

(Continued from page 1)

Communist Party would play a positive part in a new democratic Romania.

"We are in a situation in which we have to ask all of our society's forces to act in unity, and to join forces," he reportedly said.

Romania has denied reports

that Libyans fought alongside security forces loyal to Ceausescu, the Romanian state Agence France Press reported Saturday.

The report, monitored in Vienna, also said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi told Ilescu that rumours of Libyan involvement in the fighting were "completely groundless."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Maghreb summit postponed for 6 days

TUNIS (R) — A meeting in Tunis of five Maghreb heads of state has been postponed until Jan. 15 and 16, a presidential spokesman said Saturday. The summit of the Arab Maghreb Union, which groups Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, was originally announced for Jan. 9 and 10. The spokesman said the dates were changed after consultations on Friday and because of scheduling difficulties. All five heads of state had agreed to attend, he added. The summit will be the union's first since the heads of state signed the Arab Maghreb Union treaty in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh last February. The union is meant to develop into a free trade area to face the challenge of a single European market but the five countries have so far made little progress in dismantling trade barriers. The recent upsurge in fighting in Western Sahara between Morocco and Polisario guerrillas traditionally supported by Algeria is a major obstacle to closer union, diplomats say. Experts from the five countries will meet in Tunis on Jan. 9 and 10 and their foreign ministers Jan. 12 and 13, the spokesman said.

U.S. envoy holds talks in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — U.S. State Department Under-Secretary Ivan Silan met Iraqi officials Saturday to discuss bilateral ties, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It said Silan met senior Iraqi official Nizar Hamdoun but gave no details. Silan arrived Thursday on a tour of U.S. embassies in the Middle East, INA added. Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra Saturday denounced the U.S. invasion of Panama last week. "Protection of U.S. interests does not give Washington the right to burn the Panamanian capital," it said.

Afghan rebel seeks aid for starving

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Afghan rebel commander made an urgent plea for aid Friday, saying children were dying of starvation and cold in northern Afghanistan. Commander Aryanpur said the whole of northeastern Afghanistan was suffering an unprecedented drought and one of its toughest winters, the rebel news service Midia said. Appealing for immediate financial and material aid, he said Badkshan province was particularly badly hit by food shortages and the situation was growing worse daily. "A number of infants died of starvation and cold on their way to nearby provinces for shelter and food," Midia said. The region is part of a huge area largely controlled by Ahmad Shah Massoud, one of the best-known Afghan rebel leaders fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed Kabul government of President Najibullah. The government, which itself relies on Soviet supplies of food and fuel, still controls the major towns in the north, but the Mujahideen rebels hold sway over the countryside. Before the war, it was one of Afghanistan's most productive farming regions, supplying the rest of the country with wheat. According to Midia, prices of essentials have shot beyond the reach of ordinary Afghans. Wheat now costs 1,200 afghanis a kg (over \$2 at black market rates) — more than 10 times the summer price in Kabul.

Mubarak gets rare praise from opposition

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received rare praise from opposition parties Saturday for restoring diplomatic ties with Syria after a break of more than a decade.

"We must say that we would not have achieved this without Egypt's successful policy," Ibrahim Shukri, opposition spokesman and leader of the Socialist Labour Party, told parliament. Egypt and Syria agreed Wednesday to restore full relations.

Shukri praised Mubarak's diplomacy which he said was marked by "patience, calm and efforts to bring brothers together seeking points of agreement before points of discord."

Opposition parties are usually critical of Mubarak's handling of the country's economic and internal affairs.

Yassin Serageddin, parliamentary leader of the opposition centre-right Al-Wafd Party, said he hoped the move would help ease tensions between Syria and Iraq, bitter foes ruled by rival wings of the Arab Baath Party.

"The restoration of ties with Syria crows Arab diplomacy and Mubarak's efforts," he said.

The People's Assembly, dominated by Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), said in a statement Saturday that the rapprochement with Syria was "a significant political achievement to boost Arab unity."

Mubarak will visit Khartoum Sunday for talks expected to focus on attempts to end Sudan's five-year-old civil war, Arab diplomats said Saturday.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:20	Cultural programme
19:00	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:00	Varieties programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:50	Tel Fero Tel Fero
18:15	L'ecole de films
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Who's the Boss?
21:10	The Struggle for Democracy
22:00	News in English
22:30	Game, Set and Match
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:31	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:30	Dhuhr

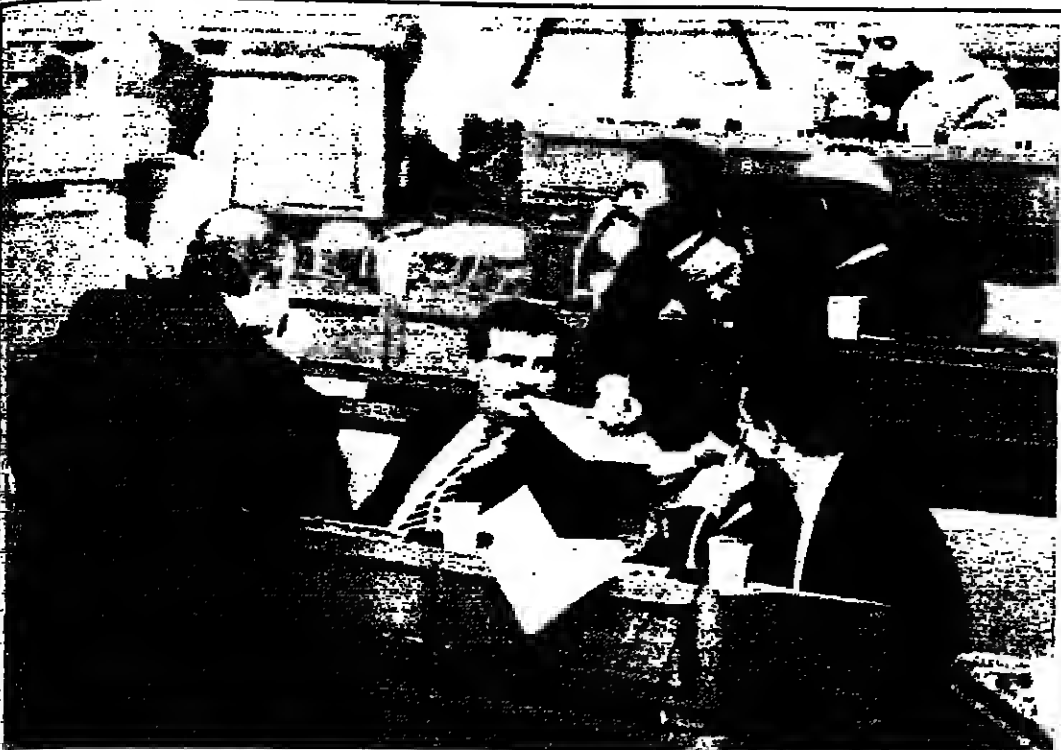
CHURCHES	
14:23	'Asr
16:46	Maghreb
18:09	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 638543	
American Catholic Church Tel. 713331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assam International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Winds will appear at different altitudes and rain is expected to fall	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hamdi Al Zurayk	783708
Dr. Subhi Tamous	898903
Dr. Issa Abu Haidar	637123
Dr. Mahdi Abu Rabid	(—)
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	776336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623872

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891238
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	834402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	613813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Azileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642662
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Smeitaji	664171/4
Shmeitaji Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	667271/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	666164/6
Isaiah, Al-Muhajirun	771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marza	891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

17:55	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:05	London (RJ)
19:45	Rome (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:35	Dubai (AZ)
10:05	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Khartoum (CU)
10:50	Tripoli (RJ)
16:35	Aden (RJ)
16:35	Amman (OA)
19:25	Frankfurt (LF)
19:25	Beirut (ME)
06:35	London (BA)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
16:45	Rome (RJ)
17:45	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:20	Istanbul, Vienna (RJ)
12:45	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
19:40	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
20:40	Larnaca (RJ)
20:45	Baghdad (RJ)
20:45	Cairo (P)
21:15	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Suez (RJ)
21:15	Damascus (RJ)
21:15	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	



CONSULTATIONS: Deputies consult each other ahead of the formal opening of Saturday's session of the Lower House (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alaa)

Primary health care course begins for doctors

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-week training course for doctors in providing primary health care services started Saturday at the Ministry of Health.

Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaboo, who opened the course, said that primary health care services would be boosted in Jordan so that all citizens would be covered by proper health services by the end of the century in line with recommendations issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Participants in the course are expected to deal with planning, management and operation of services at health centres and providing nutrition, care for the sick, dealing with contagious diseases and handling occupational hazards.

The minister called on primary health care officials to direct their attention to means of offering protection to the society from bad habits that might cause diseases and to early detection of illnesses.

Doctors from health centres around the country involved in the course will be discussing various activities pertaining to health issues at the health centre of their work in the course of discharging their duties, according to the minister.



Mohammad Addoub Al Zaboo to health ministry officials. They said that the two-week course would orient the doctors on all matters needed to boost primary health care services in Jordan.

Jordan, N. Yemen discuss civil defence

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of the civil defence department in North Yemen, Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Abdullah Al Anasi, met here Saturday with Major-General Afif Gboul, director of the Civil Defence Department (CDD) to discuss cooperation between Jordan and North Yemen in civil defence fields.

They also discussed training of personnel employed in civil defence and rescue operations and exchange of expertise in these areas at the meeting, which was attended by senior aides from both sides. Anasi was briefed on the CDD's modernisation programme of civil defence services in the Kingdom and future plans.

Anasi and his delegation later toured a number of units, including one which offers early warning of fires and other dangers. The North Yemeni team also had a briefing on CDD's methods of handling dangerous chemicals.

Archaeology and restoration work get major boost

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government recently made available funds to finance the restoration of Karak Castle, a project which will be carried out in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and Czechoslovak archaeologists, according to Ghazi Bisheh, director of the Department of Antiquities in Amman.

The work entails, among other things, restoration at the castle itself, with special attention to be given to the eastern wall and the southern tower of the ancient structure. Bisheh said in a statement Saturday to the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

At the same time, Bisheh said, the department is going ahead with other plans which include up to 35 archaeological digs around the country. In the coming year it will start issuing pamphlets and brochures in a simple form to help spread information about the archaeological sites, and the results of excavations at historical places of Jordan. The coming year will also witness an escalation of activity on the part of the department by displaying artefacts at local and international exhibitions to highlight Jordan's archaeology and by dealing with Jordanian universities, Bisheh added.

So far, the department has more than 5,000 registered archaeological sites where it conducted digs with the help of foreign missions, but this number is expected to rise to 7,000 shortly, once a general survey started by the department on various areas has been completed, Bisheh noted.

Bisheh said the department, which has 250 qualified personnel including eight with doctorate degrees, would continue to cooperate with foreign archaeological missions that have been conducting digs in Jordan.

Bisheh said that in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Department of Antiquities would introduce pamphlets and booklets to schools of Jordan featuring archaeology and past history of the country as unearthed by archaeological missions at Petra, Jerash, Umm Qais, Tabaqat Fah, the Omayyad desert castles and other places. These pamphlets and brochures will be simple, in form and easy to read and understand, including special editions for children, Bisheh explained.

Apart from publishing literature about Archaeology of Jordan, Bisheh said, the department will continue to offer archaeological artefacts in exhibitions here and abroad.

He said the exhibition called the "Kings Highway", which has been a number of countries and is now being held in Tokyo, will move on to Liverpool in the United Kingdom in March 1990. Bisheh made it clear that the excavation programmes are normally costly and require highly specialised staff as well as diligence and perseverance.

This is why the department prefers to rely on assistance from selected foreign archaeological missions from friendly nations, he said.

At least 68,000 non-Jordanians are at present working illegally in the Kingdom and a similar number hold work permits and are employed in various organisations, according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Labour.

The survey, quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily, recommended that proper measures should be adopted so as to control the labour market through intensifying search campaigns by Labour Ministry teams.

The team, which conducted the survey, recommended closer cooperation between the Labour Ministry and the employers and businesses to help find work for unemployed Jordanians who can take the place of non-Jordanian workers.

It also recommended that Jordanian embassies in countries that can absorb a greater number of Jordanian workers be provided with qualified officials who could find jobs for Jordanians in these countries.



Aqaba has the potential to attract a great number of tourists but tourist operators claim that tourism has sharply declined.

Tourism operators warn of Aqaba disaster, urge action

AQABA (J.T.) — Tourism in the port city of Aqaba is sharply declining at the peak of tourism season causing alarm to hoteliers and tourist agents who blame the situation on a host of reasons, including the Ministry of Tourism's recent decision to impose a 10 per cent tax on hotel services.

Interviewed by the local Arabic daily Al Dustour, Simoo Khouri, owner of the Aquamarina hotel, and several leading hoteliers and tourist agents all forecast a gloomy outlook for tourism this winter and call for immediate action on the part of the government to help stimulate tourism.

"To succeed as a tourist centre, Aqaba should be in a position to offer competitive rates for hotel services, travel and other areas and attract tourists from various parts of the world," Khouri said.

"Aqaba accounts for 30 per cent of the total volume of tourism in Jordan, thanks to the port city's mild climate, especially during the winter season," he added.

Hotel occupancy during the past winter season registered around 70 per cent, dropping now to 65 per cent, largely due to cancellation of visits by tourist groups last month, Khouri pointed out. He said that only a trickle of tourists arrive in Aqaba nowadays, in addition to the weekly tourist flights from Finland which account only for 20 per cent of the total volume of tourism in Aqaba.

In order to make their ends meet, Aqaba hotels should have at least 40 to 50 per cent occupancy, but if the cancellations continue, the hotels will certainly face a "disaster," Khouri said.

Khouri, who has just returned from a business trip abroad during which he met with tour operators in America, France, Holland, Austria and Finland, said that he discussed with directors of Royal Jordanian (RJ) offices abroad obstacles in the way of marketing Jordan to foreign countries. He said the following reasons seem to be impeding RJ and Aqaba tourist centres' efforts:

— Rise of prices of various services and commodities;
— The soaring prices of RJ fares, (almost 20 per cent above rates in neighbouring countries);
— The imposition of a 10 per cent tax on services by hotels of less than four-star classification;

— The lack of a standing policy for marketing Jordan abroad and the Ministry of Tourism's failure to participate in various international conferences and exhibitions. RJ offices abroad can only help reserve seats for tourists, but lack qualified staff to help market Jordan's tourist attractions.

The Aqaba-Nweibeb land-sea route, Khouri said, is being used for transit and travel and to ferry cars and tourists combined. This is improper for tourism, he said. Tourist groups should be accorded separate facilities with special services. Khouri suggested.

Khouri also proposed the creation of a separate tourist office to separately market Aqaba, locally and abroad, since the port city constitutes a good source of hard currency income for the Kingdom.

He said direct weekly flights from Europe to Aqaba should be organised at competitive prices and that no additional taxes should be imposed during the tourist season. Khouri also suggested that Ministry of Information launch a concerted informational programme to encourage tourism.

Among those interviewed by the newspaper were Salim Haddad, Simaan Qousus, Salim Al Hilu and Mahmoud Hilalat all of whom voiced concern over the situation.

A total of 14,000 Finnish tourists visited Aqaba and the southern regions of Jordan last year, but only 5,000 have booked to come this season, according to those interviewed. The government's measures and the increase in taxes have largely reduced the volume of domestic tourism and drastically curtailed income for hotels, local businesses and other facilities.

Last August, the Ministry of Tourism announced a 45 to 50 per cent increase on hotel charges in Jordan as part of a comprehensive policy to improve hotel services.

EC to support industrial energy meeting in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — European industrialists will demonstrate their latest technologies in energy efficiency and conservation in key industrial sectors during a regional industrial symposium to be held in Jordan next year. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) is organising the symposium with the help of Systems Europe, a Belgian consulting firm hired under the energy cooperation accord between MEMR and the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy.

The EC Newsletter interviewed Etienne Jamouille, the president of Systems Europe, who was in Amman recently to help advise the MEMR's topics, main objectives and list of participants. "We envisage that 50-100 industrialists will participate," he said.

Jamouille said that the seminar's main theme will be energy monitoring and management for better efficiency and conservation, and that "its main objective is to promote a variety of relations and contacts between European and Arab industrialists."

The seminar, to be organised by the MEMR and sponsored by the European Community and possibly also by a relevant inter-Arab organisation, will tackle the energy aspects of the electricity generating, oil refining, cement, fertilizer and petrochemical industries.

European industrialists will give presentations on their latest energy conservation technologies. It is hoped that an exchange of information, especially on production/expertise problems in the Arab World, would help expand commercial exchange with Europe through increased business contacts and joint ventures.

The seminar will address technological aspects of energy management and control, with Jamouille suggesting that European technology requires only minor modifications to be used in the Arab World (one example: using Arabic characters in micro-processors).

"Energy management in a cement plant requires a system able to monitor the various consumptional device components of the chain of cement production, so that one can compare — on the spot — actual and ideal levels of energy consumption and take corrective action on a system level," Jamouille said, adding that this applies to almost any industry or sector.

One major difference in energy load management is that the Arab states have to manage energy shortages, while Europe has to manage energy surpluses. Energy shortage management requires close monitoring of equipment use to avoid overload, which reduces the equipment's life span and is costly. Such monitoring also promotes the efficient use of all equipment.

"We are also considering tackling environmental and pollution issues related to energy management and pollution protection systems," Jamouille told the EC Newsletter.

The industrial seminar is set to take place in Amman in the second half of 1990.

Jordan's need for psychologists finally addressed

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There was always a widely-felt feeling that there was a need for a higher number of psychologists in Jordan. It was not until December this year that a national centre for psychological and educational consultation was opened here.

Until now, it was unheard-of for a member of a traditional Jordanian family to consult with strangers and reveal personal and private problems. But, these views are changing. "I feel secure when I am talking to a professional who is able to listen and pinpoint my problem and thus set myself on the right track," said one of the clients at the new centre.

The centre owes its origins to Dr. Arwa Ameri, director of the Psychology Department at the University of Jordan, and Dr. Fatima Reed.

According to Ameri, the centre focuses on problems of social and emotional development; learning, language, and school adjustment; dependency problems and family and marriage interactions. Five qualified doctors at the centre tackle a wide range of these problems.

"Our approach is therefore interdisciplinary," Ameri said. "We look at the individual as a whole in assessment and in therapy." The centre also gives special training to parents and teachers, "for they lay the foundations on which young people can grow into responsible and competent individuals," she added.

Ameri noted that parents had expressed great relief now that children with learning disabilities can turn to special education teachers. Thus a child who is slower than his/her peers yet not slow enough for a special school can now overcome these problems by having these qualified teachers offering the special attention he/she needs.

Nine children between the ages of three and 13 with learning problems have attended the centre so far. Ameri said that the remaining four are

adults with "eating disorders" or medicine dependency problems.

Ameri expressed satisfaction with the way the centre was picking up and the feedback it was getting. "Because of the keenness of the people, we are establishing group sessions of mothers and fathers alternatively for one hour for two months," she said. The objective of these group sessions is to discuss lectures relating to problems parents are facing with their children. "It will prove successful because people often feel better when they know other people share the same problems," said Ameri.

Ameri remembered that at the beginning — when the project was in its initial stages. "It was time consuming and required a lot of effort." She explained that since by law clinical psychologists cannot practice in Jordan, "it was with a great deal of persuasion and patience that the centre was set up as a legalised company." The National Centre for Psychological and Educational consultation is now the only centre of its kind in Jordan.

Ameri noted that there are a lot of psychiatrists who practise in Jordan but pointed out that there "is a clear difference between them and psychologists."

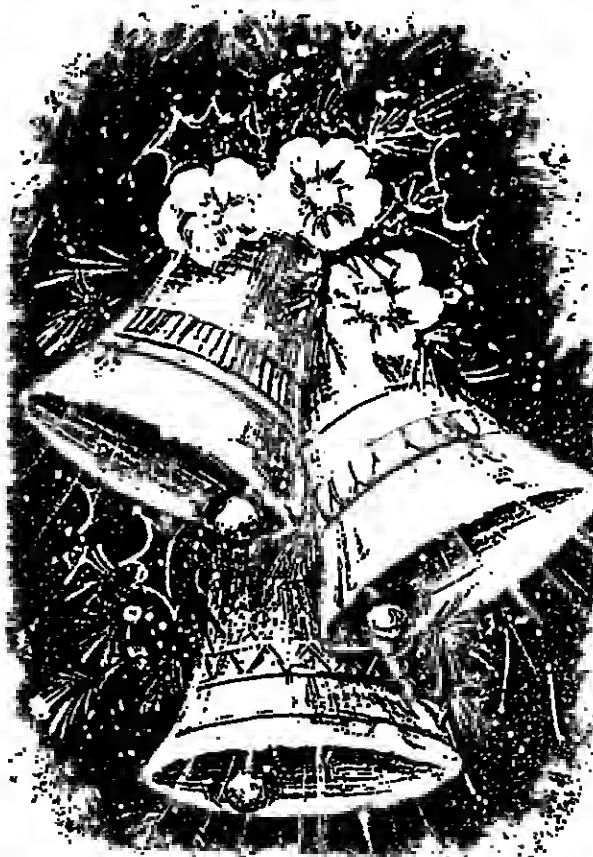
The former, requires seven years of medical practice and as little as three years of psychology while the latter studies ten years of psychology. With this new centre established for the people who do not need medical treatment, "psychiatrists are pleased because we are taking a large load off their shoulders," Ameri said. People used to go to psychiatrists even though they did not need medical treatment as the only solution to their problems. Instead, these people are now turning to the counselling centre.

"We expect many more people to turn to us. The need now is for more qualified psychologists and perhaps more centres," Ameri said.

T. GARGOUR & FILS (L.L.CO.) (SHIPPING) ANNOUNCES

That with effect from Saturday, December 30, 1989, its offices will have moved to the new following address:

Wasfi Al Tal Street (Gardens)
Da'ssan Commercial Centre — 4th floor
Telephone numbers: 690626/29
690760/62
690512
Fax number:



Our postal address, cable address and telex numbers remain unchanged.

P.O. Box 419
Cable: TRUST
Telex: 21213, 23042

Christmas greetings
and best wishes
for the
New Year.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- The youth art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri and Qasem Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex.
- An art exhibition by Shahr Abu Ghazaleh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- A graphic art exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Demand for the impossible

THE BIG question now on the minds of the Middle Eastern parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict is whether the five-point Baker plan is going to end up nowhere just like all previous initiatives to settle the Palestinian problem. Judging by the growing gap between the positions of the PLO on one hand and the Americans and the Israelis on the other, there is no visible way to bridge such differences between them, especially over the central role of the PLO in any peace negotiation. At a time when Israel flatly rejects any role for the PLO and the U.S. is advocating circumventing the PLO for the time being on the premise that the dynamics of any Palestinian-Israeli talks would, in due course, pull back the PLO into the negotiations, the PLO believes, and rightly so, that such demands and words of advice are intended in fact to undermine the PLO as an elementary interlocutor in the peace process.

There is no doubt that, had the PLO yielded to the suggestions and demands being presented to it with a view to isolating it from the envisaged talks between Israel and the Palestinians, the Palestinian side would have ended up being deprived of its head and soul and become an easy prey to Israeli designs and manipulations. What is even worse, there is always the possibility that an ominous wedge would be successfully driven between the Palestinian people under occupation and their legitimate leadership in diaspora. And as the Palestinian people have spoken their word and freely selected the PLO as their sole representative, it defies logic to still insist on keeping the PLO away from the negotiating process.

Accordingly, instead of asking the PLO to surrender its rightful place in the negotiating process, Israel should be requested to be more serious about its desire to talk with the Palestinian side by accepting to talk to their duly elected representatives. The surest way for Israel to prove its seriousness and sincerity in conducting meaningful talks with the Palestinians is to respect their central aspiration to have the PLO negotiate on their behalf.

By demanding the impossible from the Palestinians, the Israelis and in turn Washington are in effect pulling the rug from under the feet of the Palestinians and aborting the entire process of peace between the two sides.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday called on Arab countries to take lessons from the events in the European continent and speed up moves towards bolstering their relations. It does not take a miracle to bring about solidarity among the Arab states; and it is not impossible to end the existing differences between Syria on the one hand, and Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the other, said the paper. The past year of 1989 bore indications that the Eastern and Western European nations which have been confronting one another and adopting hostile attitudes towards one another are now moving towards complete détente and an end to the cold war, the paper noted. It said that Arabs ought to follow suit, normalise their relations and open up channels of cooperation at all levels lest they will be left to face the consequences of being ignored by other nations now moving ahead towards prosperity and peaceful coexistence. The paper said to achieve solidarity among Arab states, economic cooperation should come first; and to attain unity among the Arab countries, Arab leaders should not expect other nations to offer help but ought to take the initiative as soon as possible.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper notes that with the revolution in Romania, Jordan is bound to be adversely affected in terms of meat imports, especially in the light of a decision by the new rulers in Bucharest to stop food exports. Fakhr Kassar says that imported meat has been a blessing for 90 per cent of the Jordanian population whose income does not allow them to purchase locally produced meat at high prices. The writer says that Jordan used to be self-sufficient in livestock and meat; and even exported the surplus abroad. It is a pity to see the country relying on foreign imports to feed its population. The writer blames these in responsible positions and previous governments for not solving the meat problem in Jordan despite the chance they had been given to do that over the past two decades. Kassar says that Jordanians should not be left to face the consequences of events abroad and rely on outside sources for their sustenance.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily commented Saturday on the peace march staged by 3,000 women in the Holy City of Jerusalem and Israel's violent move to break it up. The paper said that the women who included many Europeans and Israelis had hoped to raise their voices in protest against Israel's atrocities, but they were confronted by force on the part of Israeli police and security forces. Israel's resort to force to suppress the voice of peace can only demonstrate the Jewish state's open hostility to peace in the Middle East and its intransigence of denying the Palestinian people their legitimate rights to freedom and independent state of their own Palestinian soil, said the paper. It said that Israel's fight against the peace march should single out the Jewish state as the only element in the Middle East area that continues to oppose peace.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

How to promote domestic savings

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

THE FINAL objective of any economic system is to raise the standard of living of the people on sustainable basis. This obviously calls for more consumption. However, the sustainability of higher consumption level depends on savings. The people that consume all their income will not be able to invest. Such people will be partially consuming their productive capital without renewing it, or adding to it, every year. In such situation, production will eventually retreat and with it consumption. Therefore, the improvement of living standards, and the steady rise of future consumption, make it necessary for everyone to save as much as possible, and to direct savings into investment, which in turn generates more income, and more jobs, and makes more consumption in the future possible. Although saving and investment are two faces of the same coin, yet this may not prevent more investment than domestic savings if the extra investment was financed by borrowing foreign savings. The natural and safe source of financing investment is of course domestic savings. Savings may be a matter of free choice. Families, even those

with little income, usually set aside part of their limited income to take care of contingencies and unknown future. However modern organised societies would not stop there. The state has to adopt policies and measures conducive to augmentation of domestic savings. There are incentive to encourage optional savings by promoting the establishment of new shareholding companies, saving funds, provident and pension funds, life insurance and the like.

But there are also compulsory savings which are imposed by law and regulation, such as social security for individuals, general reserves for companies, imposition of taxes to cut off part of income and preventing its consumption. In the latter case the state should use the extra proceeds to finance capital expenditure or at least to reduce the financial deficit in the budget, which is nothing but a negative saving.

A hasty observer may think that the most effective method of increasing savings is to allow salaries and wages to rise. This can be true only when such remunerations are payable from a foreign source, such as embassies, and United Nations agencies, and not

by the government or local companies or institutions and firms. In the latter case, higher salaries mean more consumption except if the workers saved all the extra money they receive, which is highly unlikely.

A hasty observer may also think that the surest way to promote savings is to reduce prices or suppress its rises. But lower prices will not serve the purpose except if the reduction was caused by lower prices at the foreign source. The reduction of prices of the local goods and services will simply transfer income from producers to consumers to enable them consume more.

At a given level of gross national product, more saving is the other face of less consumption. Therefore the increase of overall savings of a society, including the state, could not come about by lowering interest rate which will promote consumption financing, or tax cuts which will widen the deficit gap in the budget, itself a dis-saving, or raising real wages in excess of productivity which is an open invitation to more consumption and more imports.

On the contrary, such policies are guaranteed prescriptions for increasing overall consumption, and decreasing overall savings.

Why Israel must deal with the PLO

By Moshe Maoz

THE RABIN-Shamir election proposal for the territories was designed with the purpose of reaching an accommodation with the Palestinian population (what kind? Camp David-style autonomy?), while "neutralising" the PLO in Tunis. This is wishful thinking, reflecting political shortsightedness or lack of understanding of the processes operating among that population for many years.

It might have been possible, after the April-May 1972 elections, to achieve a political settlement with the residents of the area without the involvement of the PLO. Pro-Jordanian candidates had been returned to most of the West Bank municipalities.

King Hussein's federation plan of March 1972 might indeed have generated a Jordanian-Palestinian solution, with the administered territories being accorded some autonomous status within the Kingdom of Jordan, along with effective security arrangements for Israel.

However, that opportunity was neglected owing to various factors, including, apparently, then-Premier Golda Meir's refusal to recognise the existence of Palestinian nationality in the territories.

Perhaps a political settlement with the Palestinians of the territories could have been found in other circumstances, without involving the PLO. For instance:

— After the Camp David accords, when the PLO was trapped in a Syrian vice in Lebanon, and Egypt and the U.S. supported full autonomy for the Palestinians of the territories. But in contrast to the Egyptian-

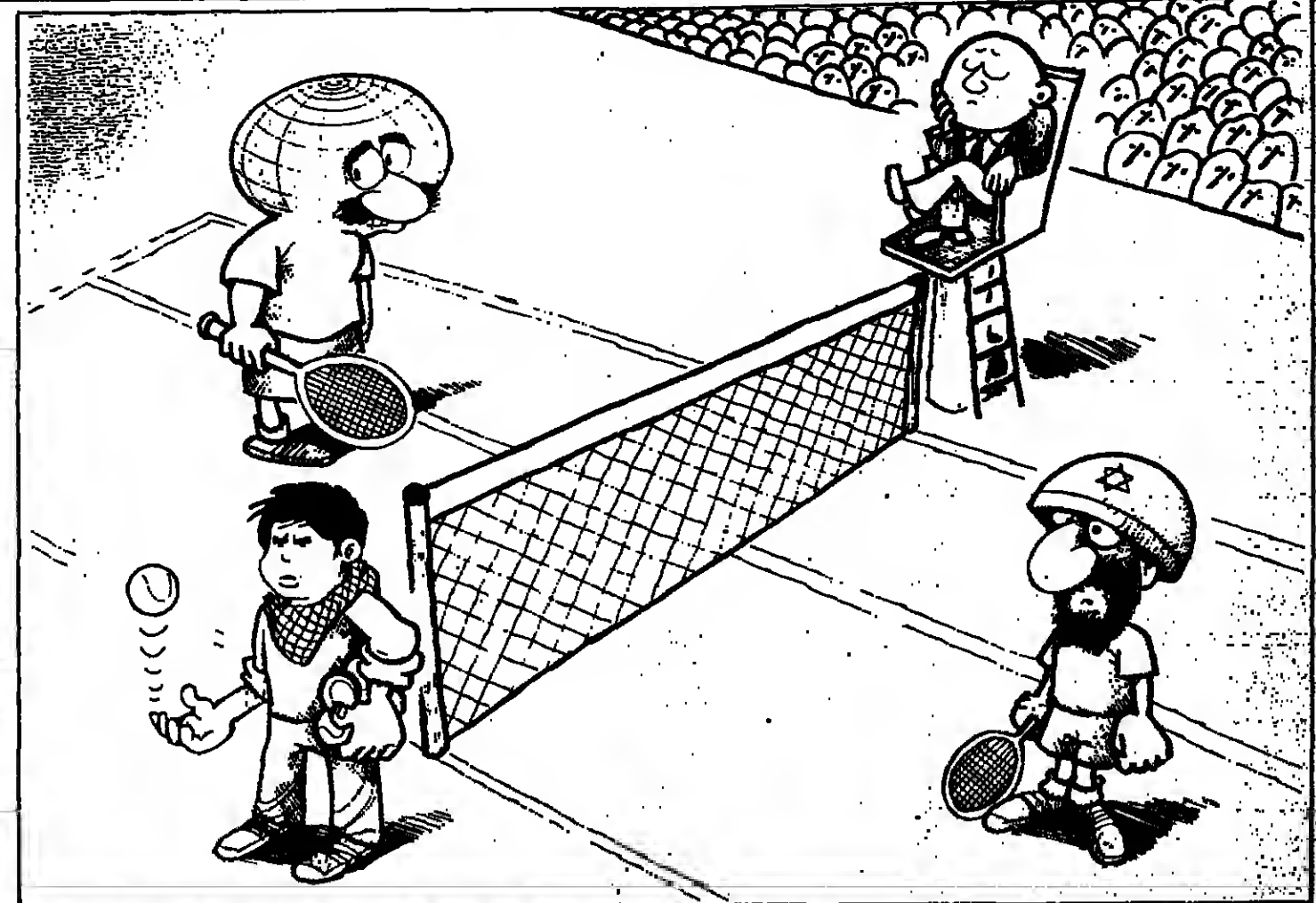
American model, which was political-territorial and acceptable to many Palestinians, Menachem Begin's pattern was one of personal-administrative autonomy. It was rejected totally by the Palestinians.

— Following the destruction of the PLO's military infrastructure and expulsion of its political leadership from Lebanon, it might have been feasible to reach an agreement with Palestinian leaders in the territories, if the Israeli government had made a generous offer in the nature of a demilitarised, political-national entity with Israeli army surveillance.

But the government of that time, through its defence minister, Ariel Sharon, did exactly the opposite; it outlawed the "Committee of National Direction" that constituted the territories' political leadership, and either deported authentic Palestinian leaders or banned their activities. It thus created a vacuum in which the intifada leadership developed.

Again, it might have been possible to prevent the intifada and reach a political settlement in the area if, in the 1984-86 period, free elections had been decreed and negotiations had been with the elected representatives of the Palestinians. But the leader of the Labour Alignment, Shimon Peres, as prime minister, and Yitzhak Rabin as defence minister, still toyed with the idea of the defunct "Jordanian option." And after the intifada began, it took a year and a half for Defence Minister Rabin to bring up the idea of elections as a political alternative to the uprising.

In fact, it can be conjectured even now that a settlement could be reached with the population of the territories, without the PLO, were it offered negotiations, following elections, over the establishment of a demilitarised Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with border modifications, and in the framework of a confederation with Jordan or Israel.



Nevertheless, it is highly doubtful if even such a proposal — which even Labour is unable to make — would be accepted without a large part of the population wanting to involve the PLO-Tunis, with which a considerable proportion of the Palestinian inhabitants identify themselves.

For all that, it is important for Israel to achieve a settlement of the Palestinian problem with the PLO, and not only because it is a moderating and pragmatic element vis-a-vis the radical-militant forces of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, with which Israel would have an extremely difficult time negotiating politically.

The PLO represents the majority of Palestinians, wherever they are. Even if we assume that some settlement is achieved with the population of the territories, the Palestinian problem will still not be resolved — particularly the problem of the approximately one million Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

They will continue to be a potential threat, mainly with Syrian encouragement, to any stable, durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

An Israel-PLO accord could neutralise this threat if it were contingent on the resettlement in Arab lands, particularly Jordan, of many Palestinian refugees, and the return of part of them to the West Bank.

The PLO must commit itself in advance to such a solution, before negotiations with Israel, and thereby abrogate the "right of return" of Palestinians to Israel proper, as well as the "Palestinian Charter."

For its part, Israel must pro-

claim the intention in principle of agreeing to a "National Homeland" for the Palestinians in the territories, at the end of a political process which will include negotiations with the PLO on the character of the entity, the stages of its realisation, arrangements for demilitarisation and security and the possibilities of forging a confederation and an economic union with Jordan or Israel.

This path, despite its inherent dangers, appears to be the most promising alternative to the situation of an intensified cycle of violence in the territories, which could lead to a bloody Arab-Israeli war — The Jerusalem Post.

U.S. will have to back Panama with money, effort

By Paul Iredale
Reuters

PANAMA CITY — President George Bush may have proved his decisiveness by ordering U.S. troops into Panama, but some Panamanians fear it could be not months but years before the soldiers can withdraw.

As more than 20,000 American soldiers pursue the dangerous task of rooting out Panamanian snipers from houses and offices in sprawling Panama City, U.S. military officials acknowledge that the operation is far from over.

"To completely clean out the entire city is going to take months of work," a U.S. commander told Pentagon reporters during a tour of Panama City this week.

With much of the city's commercial area devastated by looting, pockets of Noriega supporters still fighting and many Panamanians horrified by the force of the U.S. offensive, the country is in need of strong leadership.

But with the three leading figures of the new U.S.-installed administration all lacking any experience in office, bringing real order to Panama could be a long job.

Bush may have saddled himself with a bigger problem than he had anticipated in bolstering a government that, on the face of it, looks ill-prepared to run a country in such chaos.

Analysts of Panama's internal

politics believe the new president, Guillermo Endara, will need to call elections within a year to confirm his mandate.

Many Panamanians supported Endara in the May elections, which were annulled by strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, for lack of an alternative, but he is by no means certain to top a new poll.

Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, a former insurance salesman, is considered the most charismatic figure in the new administration and could well win new elections if the government coalition broke up.

Whatever the outcome, the United States may have to spend a lot of money and political capital to bolster an administration struggling against major difficulties.

"The Americans didn't think about the social consequences. It's going to take three or four years to rebuild and much longer to heal our wounds," said one Panamanian.

The invasion could cost Bush dearly at home and abroad. Choosing to launch his attempt to seize Noriega days before Christmas, Bush risked having U.S. holiday celebrations blighted by military coffins arriving home.

And he has yet to achieve a prime objective of the biggest U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War — the capture of Noriega.

Although Bush has an almost

80 per cent domestic approval rating for the invasion, much of this support is contingent on U.S. troops finding Noriega and many Americans are also likely to become more disenchanted with the operation as it stretches out and casualties rise.

Questions have also been raised over why the president sent in U.S. troops rather than assisting those of the Panamanian Defence Forces who sought to overthrow Noriega in a coup attempt in October.

But most of the negative political fallout from the invasion is coming from abroad, where countries as diverse as Sweden and Mexico have joined a chorus of disapproval.

The greatest damage has been in U.S. relations with Latin America, which Bush had appeared especially keen to foster, visiting Costa Rica for a hemispheric summit less than two months ago and announcing that

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a new era of mutual understanding had begun.

"We really thought gunboat diplomacy was resigned to the past. This reminds me of Teddy Roosevelt," a senior Latin diplomat in Panama told Reuters.

Another possible casualty of the U.S. invasion of Panama is Bush's attempt to organise a coordinated regional war against drug trafficking.

Peru, probably the world's largest producer of the coca leaf,

raw material for cocaine, withdrew its ambassador in Washington and proposed that a drug summit with Bush be postponed because of the invasion.

In the fiercely nationalist and anti-interventionist Andean region, where coca production has long been part of the local culture and U.S. attempts to introduce drug interdiction programmes have met spirited resistance, the effect of such a move could be far-reaching.

Panama invasion may leave lasting resentment in South America

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. invasion of Panama is likely to leave a legacy of lasting resentment in Latin America, political analysts and diplomats say.

Latin American nations have reacted to the Dec. 20 military intervention with a chorus of condemnation, the strength of which appeared to take Washington by surprise.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker insisted that some countries, while publicly deploring the invasion, privately expressed understanding and even support for it. But this was denied by South American diplomats in Washington.

"This talk of different private reactions is nothing but cynical media manipulation. Privately and publicly, the reaction was the same," said one diplomat who asked not to be identified.

Asked what the United States could do to repair the damage, he said: "There is only one thing — get the troops out of Panama as quickly as possible."

According to Eva Loser, a Central America expert with the

Centre for Strategic and International Studies, sending in the troops touched Latin American nations on one of their most sensitive historical nerves, reawakening bitter memories of past "Yankee interventions" in the region.

"It was a reflex action that ensures that any U.S. intervention would be met with the reaction it got," she said.

President George Bush seemed aware of these sensitivities. "We do not want to return to the days of the imperialist gringos of the north," he said last May, explaining his failure to act after supporters of Manuel Noriega set aside the results of an election that would have ousted him from power.

He told reporters Wednesday that handling Latin concerns would require much diplomatic effort on his part but that the problem ultimately will be "laid totally to rest" once Latin American diplomats see the new Panamanian government functioning and Noriega out of the picture.

The United States compounded its problems by failing to anticipate the orgy of looting that erupted on the streets of Panama

City after the invasion neutralised the Panamanian army, which was also the country's police force.

"There was a lack of understanding of the level of economic distress there and the pent-up frustration released by the invasion," Loser said.

Typical of Latin American reactions was that of Mexico with which the Bush administration has been strenuously trying to improve relations. A government statement following the invasion expressed its "most firm condemnation."

"These actions go against our principles that are derived from our very history," the Mexican government said.

The United States is traditionally portrayed in the Mexican press and schoolbooks as an imperialist aggressor. The image is driven home by the fact Mexico lost about half its territory to the United States in the war of 1847.

But some analysts saw hopeful signs in some of the reactions. They cited the fact that the Organisation of American States (OAS) rejected a resolution put forward by Nicaragua to condemn the invasion in favour of a slightly more mildly worded version that "deeply regretted" the

move.

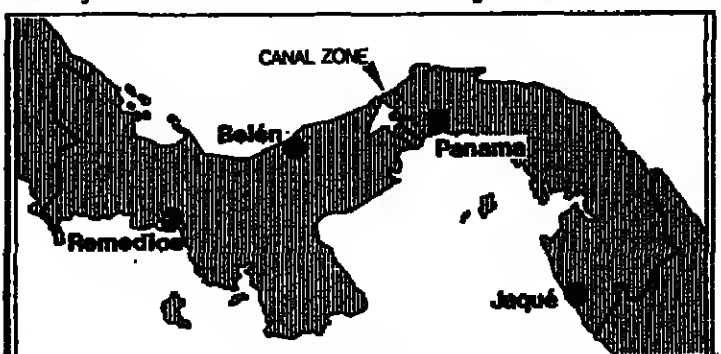
The motion was passed by 20 votes to one, the sole dissenting voice being Washington's.

The analysts also pointed to the fact that Peru, which suspended cooperation with Washington against drug growers in protest at the invasion, resumed it a week later. But it remained unclear whether President Alan Garcia would attend a drug summit in Colombia in mid-February.

Diplomats and analysts agreed there were several things the United States could do to repair its image. Most important, it should seek a quick resolution of the fate of Noriega and adopt a lower military profile in Panama.

Then it should move quickly to help reconstruct the Panamanian economy and allow the new government take over running the country.

Several diplomats also said the government of Guillermo Endara should commit itself to new elections within a year to renew its mandate, which they felt was tainted by the fact that he was installed by U.S. troops. "Time will heal some of the wounds. But the scars will still show," said one diplomat.



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Features

To the rescue of the palm tree

By Philippa Neave

For millions of people around the world, the palm tree is a cornerstone of life. It produces food — dates, coconuts, palm hearts, sugar and oil — and shelter, with its wood used to build houses and thatched roofs. Thanks to the palm tree people also make fuel, cloth, rope, cane furniture, smoking and eating utensils, and even musical instruments. This remarkable tree is as versatile as the 3,000 known species that grow around the world.

For city dwellers, the palm tree is a symbol of paradisiacal holidays or sun-drenched white beaches. Others see it as a key element in the world's ecological balance, among them Alain Herve. This Frenchman, having spent three years sailing in the tropics a quarter of a century ago, fell in love with the palm tree, recognising its uniqueness. Now 57 and with a journalistic career under his belt, Herve lives in the south of France and has finally found the time to indulge his passion for the palm tree.



Millions depend on it for their livelihood, yet the palm tree is threatened by disease. Enter Alain Herve to the rescue.

began life in a test tube in Porquerolles and were planted in the Persian Gulf countries of Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia have produced. In October about 500 kilograms of top-quality dates were harvested.

Scientists are now able, through different techniques, to select the most resistant trees that produce the best dates and clone them. "By now, we are sure of the result," Montfort said.

Researchers control the quality of the fruit and can also determine the sex of each plant, so that they can produce the desired ratio of male to female plants. It takes three to four male plants to fertilise 100 female trees, but only the female tree bears fruit. In nature the male-female ratio is about 1 to 1. The ability to produce large quantities of female plants is, therefore, a potential boon to growers.

Despite scientific successes, the rapid spread of diseases is genuine cause for concern. Warns Herve: "Palms are threatened all over the world, from the Amazon to Borneo; deforestation is progressing so fast! Take the mobile factories producing hardboard in Borneo: they cut down the trees, and once they have cleared the forest they move further in. They cut down the big trees and burn the small ones."

These small trees, says Herve, represent the biological and genetic reserve developed by nature over millions of years of evolution. "Hundreds of species are being destroyed and many of them probably haven't even been identified yet," he laments. "In Malaysia there are 160 different species of palm trees and 140 of these are threatened with extinction. Botanical investigation efforts into undiscovered but potentially productive species are ruined before they even start."

This year Herve set up an association of palm amateurs called "Fons de Palmiers" ("Crazy about Palms"). "Our aim is to create a centre for palm trees, not only to group as many species as possible but also to create an institute to study the development of man in relation to the palm tree," he said. Herve also sees the future centre as a forum for North-South contacts. One idea is to establish a "palm museum" aimed primarily at young people to illustrate, through displays, the economic and ecological importance of the palm tree.

Even in France palm trees have big business. They are all the rage as decorative shrubbery, and a mature palm can cost between \$2,500 to \$3,300. In other parts of the world, they continue to nourish and to inspire. In Tamil Nadu, in southern India, a traditional poem enumerates 800 different uses of the native Borassus palm — World News Link.

the variety known as the Elais Guineensis. Continental Malaysia is covered with these beautiful palms," Herve says. The oil is extracted from the fruit, which is crushed. The nut inside the fruit produces less oil, but it is of a better quality.

The palm tree also produces copra, which is extracted from the nut. For countries such as the Philippines, which produces half the world's annual 3 million tonnes of copra, the arrival of chemical detergents is a threat because copra is used largely to make soap. Unlike palm oil, which is produced on large plantations, copra is produced from crops grown on small-scale farms or in individual plots. Indonesia produces 700,000 tonnes of copra a year, India, 200,000 tonnes.

An up-and-coming variety (which grows mainly in Colombia and Ecuador) has fruit that hardens as it matures to produce vegetable ivory known as corozo. This has attracted a great deal of attention recently as it may be a way of saving what is left of the elephants on the planet.

But these days, palm trees are seriously threatened in several regions of the world and most of all in North Africa. A disease commonly known as "bayoud" (scientific name, Fusarium oxysporum), which grows in the form of a mushroom infecting the soil, is spreading fast and has already decimated about two-thirds of Morocco's date-palm crop — a disaster for the country's date-export industry. The disease is spreading to Algeria, and experts say that it could soon reach other parts of the world.

The threat is all the more serious for a country such as Malaysia, which relies on palm

trees for a hefty chunk of its export revenues. Herve points out that in a monoculture system of farming, in which a single species is concentrated in one area, the plants are particularly vulnerable. A single disease can kill an entire plantation.

"There are, in fact, two main diseases going around, the 'yellow disease,' which attacks the coconut tree, and the 'bayoud,' which attacks the date palm," Herve explains. "In the case of the bayoud, the infection rises from the ground into the tree and suffocates it. The only thing to do is cut the tree down, and then one has to wait several years for the mushroom to die out."

The potential for disaster has prompted researchers in France to study and develop new types of palm trees that are disease-resistant. The French Group for Research on the Date Palm, based on the island of Porquerolles, off the southern coast of France, has become one of the world's leading centres for in vitro (laboratory) study and production of the date palm.

Scientist Soizick Montfort, who has been working on the project for more than three years, confirmed that the situation in some countries is potentially catastrophic. "Some 10 million trees have already been killed in Morocco, and the bayoud is spreading in western Algeria," she noted. Many of the Moroccan trees that died were those bearing the famous Deglet Nour, considered to be the most succulent of the dates.

The French research, which was started in 1982 and involves splicing and cultivating disease-resistant palm saplings, has begun literally to bear fruit. For the first time this year, palm trees that

MANAGUA — The city of Managua is resigned to the loss of the beautiful lake, on the shores of which it lies, because of human indifference to protecting this natural resource. Also known by its pre-Spanish name of Lake Xolotlan, Lake Managua is yet another important stretch of water dying today from pollution and neglect despite current world-wide ecological concern.

The diagnosis is clear. The doctors have said there is no hope for Lake Managua because the costly cure is beyond the means of Nicaragua's ailing economy. Despite the seriousness of the situation and the pessimistic outlook, this impending ecological tragedy has attracted little international attention.

Estimates are that \$2 billion would be needed to clean up Lake Managua, a fabulous sum for a country earning only \$300 million a year.

Some 50 million years ago, Central America is believed by scientists to have lifted from the ocean in a tremendous geological shake-out. Part of the ocean remained trapped inland, creating Lake Managua, some 150 square kilometres in area and interconnected with Lake Cocibolca, also known as Lake Nicaragua and considered the seventh highest in

Death of a lake

By Horacio Ruiz

Nicaragua's once beautiful lake Managua has been pronounced dead or dying. The war-torn country does not have the financial resources to clean up what was once a major resource.

Both lakes supported a variety of fauna, including hundreds of species of fish.

Forty years ago, medium-sized vessels still navigated Lake Managua from shore to shore, bringing wood from northern forests. Good catches of fish were normal.

In 1925, a government official decided that treatment facilities for human wastes from Managua's then small population of 20,000 inhabitants were too expensive, and diverted them into the lake.

In those days, only a small fraction of Managuans used running water or had toilet facilities. Now the city has a population of 1.2 million people. At least 70 per cent use toilets, sending wastes into the lake.

So Lake Managua, instead of

providing drinking water for cattle in the nearby haciendas, or fish for the residents of the city, or a sporting location for small boats, has become an immense latrine.

Worse, a plastics factory has been established nearby which sends hundreds of tonnes of toxic matter every day into the waters.

As the lake's water becomes denser, the waves have disappeared. Detritus dumped into the water stays in one place and has coagulated into a large island of dirt. Thousands of ducks and small cranes were visible before. Now there are none.

Poverty-stricken Nicaraguans still get some food from the lake's brown waters to feed themselves or to sell in the market. People buy the fish without knowing that it comes from a pond full of human and toxic wastes. The fish

look no different from those caught in a clean river except that they are smaller. Large fish used to be caught in the lake, but now there are only very tiny fish.

In the western part of the lake, there is a dormant small volcano called Momotombo. More and more of its base is emerging as the waters recede.

The lake also has a small island, the Isla del Amor (Island of Love). For decades honeymooners used to take a boat ride to spend the day there. But as the water level drops, the connection with the mainland is visible. Soon there will be no more Isla del Amor and Momotombo, too, will have dry feet.

How long will it before Lake Managua scientifically "dies"? Some scientists believe it is already dead.

Every year, if the rainy winter is intense, a fair quantity of water falls into the lake and rejuvenates it a little. But a dry winter can only accelerate the decaying of this once beautiful body of water.

Some have proposed an engineering solution — gravity feeding water from the connected Lake Nicaragua into the doomed Lake Managua. But this is too costly a task for a country desperate for houses, hospitals and schools. — PANOS

Will new East European democracy sap Third World aid?

By Jenny Verster

As democracy sweeps through East Europe, most West European governments are preparing to inject large sums of aid to boost the ailing economies of their fellow Europeans. But aid officials are increasingly worried that this may lead to a decrease in aid to the South.

LONDON — The rebirth of democracy in East Europe could be a serious threat to development in Africa and the Third World, say aid officials.

A number of officials of bilateral aid agencies — those bodies responsible for government aid to government aid — have expressed concern that much of the increase in aid to the East will have to come from aid budgets traditionally allocated to developing countries. At the same time, prospects for substantial overall increases in foreign aid budgets appear dim.

Sweden, which has close historical ties with several East European states and traditionally is one of the most generous Western aid donors, has already decided to give \$46 million to Poland through the Swedish International Institute for Technical Co-operation (BITS). Now, a further \$155 million from the aid budget is proposed for Poland; parliament has still to agree to this figure.

Carl Tham, Director-General of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), last week urged the government to increase the overall aid budget to meet Sweden's commitments to both the East and the South, if necessary by cutting back on arms spending.

"We now see not only a lessening of tensions but also a democratisation in East Europe and a beginning of disarmament. Both in the East and West, defence budgets are being cut. This should be obvious for Sweden, which has always fought internationally for a transfer of money from defence to development and the environment," he said in an article in the Swedish daily, Dagens Nyheter.

Sweden's defence budget for 1989 was \$4.6 billion.

"To base our aid to Poland and other Eastern European countries on the aid budget is unrealistic," he said. "The problems and poverty in the developing countries are not diminishing because

Eastern Europe has thrown off its communist yoke."

Officials in a number of other European bilateral aid institutions have expressed similar fears in off-the-record discussions.

The implications for many Third World countries are serious. The combined total aid of the OECD countries (the 24 rich nations which form the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) to the whole of Africa in 1987 was \$12,400 million: \$10,000 million went to sub-Saharan Africa; Asia received \$9,500 million, and Latin America \$4,000 million.

Norwegian aid officials, too, have expressed their worries for the future. Halle Jørn Hansen, Director of Information at the Norwegian Ministry of Development Co-operation (NORAD), says: "As a European I am joyful at the events now occurring in Eastern Europe."

But he also expressed concern about the long-term possibility for an all-European peace settlement — but I am also very concerned at the implications this is likely to have for North-South relations.

"While all Europeans, particularly West Europeans, must take part in sustainable development in Eastern Europe, this must not happen at the expense of North-South relations and development co-operation."

"The new situation emerging in

Europe gives, for the first time, the real possibility to turn from armament to disarmament. And if we do that, we will be able to provide sufficient resources for both North-South and East-West sustainable development."

Developments in East Europe have reverberated around the world, but have struck a particular chord with people in Western Europe. Hopes for a more united Europe are not restricted to East and West Germany. Czechoslovakia has close ties with Austria, and the Baltic republics have strong historical links with the Nordic countries. The national language of Estonia for example, is similar to Finnish.

Given the ties within Europe, West European government aid to Eastern Europe is likely to be politically more popular than aid to the South. Yet the prospect of contributing aid to East Europe comes at a time when the Third World is more "in need" than ever.

A recent report on sub-Saharan Africa by the World Bank calls for an increase in Western aid from a projected \$15 billion in 1990 to \$22 billion by the turn of the century.

The report also stresses that effective implementation of economic recovery measures goes hand in hand with "better governance". — PANOS

Malaria drug abused for abortion

By Charles Mmbaga

DAR ES SALAAM — It has never been a secret that many Tanzanian women, including schoolgirls, choose to abort in their bedrooms rather than in public hospitals.

Asha S, an 18-year-old secondary schoolgirl, said she would never attempt an abortion. But last year she became pregnant and her elder sister advised her to abort — illegally.

"But how?" asked the innocent Asha. Her sister suggested "the most effective abortion pill in town" — chloroquine, the anti-malaria drug.

She gave Asha ten tablets of chloroquine. Within hours Asha was in the intensive care unit of the main hospital in the city. She was lucky enough to emerge from the ordeal alive. Many do not.

But the practice continues. Dr. H.M. Mohamed, of the main hospital in Dodoma, in central Tanzania says, "Many die in their rooms and their friends or families prefer to hide the cause of death," he says. He explains that since it is illegal to abort, silence is preferred when the abortion leads to death.

"Chloroquine is unquestionably effective in combating malaria," says Dr. Jakob Eliezer, of the Tanzania-Zambia Railways Authority, "but it is now being abused."

Ministry of Health and Social Services records show that in Dar es Salaam alone, close to 50 people died last year from chloroquine overdoses. Of these, 30 were women trying to abort.

In April and May this year alone, 10 women attempting abortion died there. "Apart from these months, we have been recording three cases every month," says a doctor working with Muhimbili Medical Centre in the city. He says the trend is

disturbing because it affects young women in their prime. Meanwhile, according to city health officials, the pills are also being used in suicide cases: up to September this year, 20 men had died in Dar es Salaam after overdoses of chloroquine.

The sensitive issue of abortion — whatever method used — is now out in the open in Tanzania and reveals mixed feelings among the country's medical experts.

Some think that the time has come to legalise abortion so that women who do not want a baby can have a safe operation in an established hospital. This is Dr. Mohamed's view.

Others oppose relaxation of the abortion law as "chemical warfare on the unborn" and say it will encourage promiscuity among the unmarried young — worse still, among schoolgirls.

"It will simply be an abortion inducer," says Maria-Rose Jasson, an expatriate health officer working with a private hospital in the city. She suggests the problem should be tackled from the grassroots.

Sex education and other family planning topics should be introduced into schools if the country is to relieve the problem, she says.

It is estimated that 5 per cent of Tanzanian schoolgirls from primary to secondary schools never complete their education due to early pregnancies.

A recent seminar in Dar es Salaam called for a re-evaluation of the close mother-daughter relationship which has become less frank in recent decades. But there is also evidence that the declining Tanzanian economy is compelling girls "to sell themselves for quick money," says a lecturer at the Social Welfare Institute in the city — PANOS

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Analysts predict moderate oil prices in 1990s

NEW YORK (R) — Oil producers learned hard lessons from the turbulent 1980s and, as a result, they will likely try to temper sharp price increases in the 1990s, oil analysts said.

"I don't think OPEC wants prices to spike. If you have \$30 (a barrel) oil, it doesn't take long before demand goes down as it did between 1981 and 1986, when they demonstrated erroneous disregard for market conditions," said John Lichtblau, analyst for Petroleum Industry Research Foundation.

OPEC currently pumps around 23.6 million barrels per day (b/d), which is about 45 per cent of non-communist production, analysts said.

Spot oil prices crashed from a 1980 high of \$44 a barrel to below \$10 in 1986 amid unforeseen supply gluts.

Ten years ago, prices were headed higher with supplies limited by revolution in Iran and the Iran-Iraq war.

But price increases sharply curtailed consumption and induced wide-scale conservation by the mid-decade.

Higher prices also sparked an unparalleled search for non-OPEC sources of oil.

Prices have rebounded since 1986, with cold weather recently bolstering heating oil futures to a 1984 high of 110.00 cents a gallon.

on the New York Mercantile Exchange. This has helped push crude futures up about \$2 a barrel to nearly \$22, but they remain far below pre-1986 levels.

Analysts expect oil prices to rise modestly in the 1990s.

"The Saudis and Kuwaitis have learned their lesson that Western countries can replace oil if prices get too high and I think they'll be moderate in letting prices grow," said William Hermann, chief economist at Chevron Inc. who sees prices topping out at \$25.00.

In a surprise move Friday, OPEC President Riwan Lukman was switched in a cabinet reshuffle from his job as Nigerian oil minister to the foreign ministry, a move that might lead to his giving up his OPEC post.

"The personnel may be important day-to-day but will have little significance over the long-term," said Hermann.

"OPEC's strength increasingly comes from their proportion of the total output worldwide and not so much from the personnel or people who try to administer the quotas," he noted.

Experts said they expect

OPEC's ability to influence oil prices will be concentrated among fewer of its 13 members, as only four to five members, including Iraq, Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, will have the excess production capacity needed to fill this role.

Worldwide demand for oil is expected to grow in the 1990s from the 1980s average of about 47.0 million b/d in the non-communist world and about 13.0 million b/d in the communist world excluding China.

"Total communist and non-communist demand is around 60 million as of now and we expect a growth overall of about 10 million b/d by the year 2000."

"But, that's not taking into account the political upheaval in the Eastern Bloc, which could push up energy demand at a much faster rate than had the communist institutions stayed in place," said Hermann.

Some analysts said sweeping Eastern Bloc liberalisation could add up to five million barrels to earlier demand forecasts.

Average U.S. demand was about 18 million b/d and is expected to grow very slightly.

"(U.S.) energy conservation is ongoing and we don't look for increased gasoline consumption in the 1990s even though we'll put 30 million more vehicles on the road by the end of the decade,"

said an analyst requesting anonymity.

The country's imports are expected to pass 50 per cent of requirements in 1990 and rise significantly above that by 1995, analysts said.

The price of North Sea Brent blend crude oil, a world price marker, ended a volatile 1989 on a firm note at around \$21 per barrel. A year ago it was \$16.35.

A feature of 1989 was the way rising production by OPEC was offset by a series of hiccups in supply from other sources.

World oil demand, recently helped by a bitter winter in North America, meanwhile rebounded to levels not seen since the market peaked in 1979-80.

A year or so ago OPEC production of a million b/d more than the group's self-imposed ceiling would have caused great uncertainty.

"Now it's lost in the washing," a London-based trader said.

Oil prices touched their highest for this year in April after Alaskan supply was temporarily interrupted by the Exxon Valdez oil spill and a gas explosion on a North Sea pumping platform which shut off a quarter of British supply.

The price of Brent rose to around \$22.

Petrol prices in Europe and the U.S. also soared as a result. The

price of gasoline barge lots on the Rotterdam spot market shot up around \$100 to almost \$300 per tonne in the space of two weeks.

But by August Brent was back down at around \$16.

The latest "bullish" factor has been cold weather. For most of December temperatures in the U.S. north east have been below normal. Heating oil futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange reached four-year highs.

The cold also disrupted production at several refineries in the southern United States.

Market experts said 1990 could also see price swings of \$6 to \$7 a barrel although the long-term trend is likely to be higher, they added.

A new OPEC production agreement takes effect Jan. 1 which the oil ministers hope will take about one million barrels daily of excess output off the market. But they acknowledge that demand for OPEC oil may weaken after the winter.

Towards the end of European business Friday North Sea Brent blend was assessed at \$21.05 per barrel, some 20 cents higher than Thursday.

Dubai, the leading Middle East grade, was up around 30 cents at \$17.85 a barrel. West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark, rose by some 28 cents to \$21.88 a barrel for February cargoes.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Tunisia slashes tax rates

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has slashed tax rates for individuals and businesses in an attempt to discourage tax evasion. Parliament voted to cut the top rate of income tax to 35 per cent from 65 per cent. It cut corporate tax to 35 per cent from a maximum of 44 per cent for trading, manufacturing, transport and tourist companies and to 10 per cent from a maximum of 20 for companies in fishing, agriculture and handicrafts. Officials said the law aimed to discourage rampant tax evasion and was not likely to affect overall tax revenues. A first draft of the bill underwent two amendments after complaints from businessmen and small traders. Some 31,000 small shopkeepers will continue to pay tax by rough assessment of their turnover, and will not have to keep detailed accounts envisaged in the first draft. Parliamentary committees also removed a provision allowing tax officials to enter private houses to investigate tax fraud. Businessmen have welcomed the lower rates but accountants said their effect was uncertain.

Algeria sees higher oil demand

NICOSIA (R) — Algerian Mines Minister Sadek Boussena has predicted higher oil demand in the next two years, keeping prices low. "With all the oil we have, we are not going to raise prices," he said. Boussena said the Algerian government was planning to increase its oil production to 2.5 million barrels a day by 1992. He said the Algerian government was planning to increase its oil production to 2.5 million barrels a day by 1992. He said the Algerian government was planning to increase its oil production to 2.5 million barrels a day by 1992.

Egypt to receive Australian wheat

CAIRO (R) — Australia has signed an accord to supply Egypt with some 50,000 tonnes of wheat, worth \$11.8 million, an Australian embassy spokesman said. The wheat will be given to Egypt as part of Australia's annual food aid programme. It is to be delivered in February or March next year. Australia agreed earlier this year to sell Egypt 1.5 million tonnes. Egypt, the world's third largest wheat importer, imports between six and seven million tonnes of wheat every year.

Portugal to raise basic food prices

LISBON (R) — Portugal's centre-right government has announced that state-controlled prices of basic foods and services would rise by an average 7.7 per cent next year but said the increases would not endanger its anti-inflation plans. Justice Minister Fernando Nogueira told reporters that the rises, which cover staples such as bread as well as gas and water supply, were part of government plans to limit inflation to between 9.5 and 10.5 per cent in 1990. Portugal's current inflation rate of more than 12 per cent is among the highest in Western Europe and has sparked a wave of strikes by workers demanding matching wage rises. Economists say the European Community's poorest country may find it hard to rein in inflation while its economy is growing rapidly but add they have been encouraged by a slowing in the pace of price rises the past couple of months.

Poland secures \$500 million loan

WASHINGTON (R) — Industrial nations have finalised an emergency loan for Poland of as much as \$500 million to help cushion the blow of a tough economic austerity programme, the U.S. Treasury has said. The United States, as previously announced by President George Bush on Dec. 13, will provide \$200 million of the money, which will tide Poland over until it receives a longer-term loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Britain narrows trade deficit

LONDON (AP) — Britain's foreign merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$1.52 billion (\$2.4 billion) in November from \$1.83 billion (\$2.9 billion) in the previous month, the government has said. The better-than-expected figures cheered the financial markets because they provided more evidence that the government's policy of high interest rates is working to cool the economy. That means interest rates might not be pushed up again, so stock prices rose, and the pound dipped. The government has pushed interest rates to an eight-year high of 15 per cent to tackle resurgent inflation, which is running at an annual rate of 7.7 per cent. Britain's current account deficit shrank to \$1.42 billion (\$2.3 billion), from \$1.73 billion (\$2.8 billion), the Central Statistical Office said. The current account deficit equals merchandise trade plus invisible trade, which covers services, overseas investment earnings and official transfer payments. Invisible trade was estimated to be in surplus by \$100 million (\$160 million).

Spain clears KIO to acquire Torras

MADRID (R) — The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) has won official approval to launch a \$1.1 billion bid for Spanish industrial conglomerate Grupo Torras but stock analysts expressed disquiet at the terms.

KIO, one of the largest foreign investors in Spain's booming economy, Tuesday launched the biggest bid in the history of the Spanish stock exchange for control of the 60 per cent of the Barcelona-based group that it does not already own.

The Spanish National Securities Commission, modelled on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Tuesday gave the official go-ahead for the bid.

But stockbrokers and analysts in London and Madrid said they were not happy with the offer, which involves payment both in cash and in shares in Prima Inmobiliaria, a Spanish property company owned by KIO.

"I do not think investors are going to be overly amused," said Virginia Slight, an equities analyst at London-based investment bank, Barclays De Zoete Wedd.

Another London-based broker said he believed Torras had mis-

led investors. "A year ago they were raising capital and saying what a good long-term investment it was. Now they say for the benefit of shareholders they will take the company private."

However, most investors were expected to accept the offer rather than run the risk of holding onto shares that may prove difficult to sell in future.

KIO, which is making its offer through two Dutch-registered companies, Koomees Holdings B.V. and Koomees Holdings B.V., is offering Torras shareholders one Prima Inmobiliaria share and 8,350 pesetas (\$76).

Spanish brokers said Prima's stock price had been artificially inflated, rising sharply since mid-November when it was trading at 6,400 pesetas (\$58), to 8,400 pesetas (\$76.4) at the time KIO launched its bid.

"I think the price of Prima is absolutely artificial, they have kept Torras shares low and Prima shares high," said Jose Luis Lopez Quesada of Madrid brokerage firm Ursa Y Morenas.

Narciso Mir, a director on the board of several Torras companies, denied there had been any manipulation of Prima or Torras stock.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, December 30, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	111.6	112.7
U.S. dollar	645.0	651.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	449.2	453.7
Pound Sterling	1038.9	1049.3	Dutch guilder	357.7	361.1
Deutschemark	361.5	365.3	Swedish crown	104.3	105.3
Swiss franc	418.5	422.7	Italian lira (for 100)	20.9	21.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	181.7	183.5

Castro slams capitalism

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has said that capitalism created "bandits and thieves" and thousands of young Cubans demonstrated in Havana to pledge allegiance to him and socialism.

"The free-market method is the capitalist method, a method of looting and robbery," Castro said in a speech at a steelworks outside Havana.

"The capitalist method creates bandits, creates thieves, creates people who get rich at the expense of others," the Cuban leader added.

As Castro was speaking, thousands of Cuban youngsters took to the streets in Havana in a demonstration specially organised to reaffirm the socialist identity of the revolution he started when he toppled a right-wing dictatorship in 1959.

Castro's latest energetic rejection of capitalism and its free-market policies was a further reminder that Cuba did not plan to follow the market-oriented economic reforms currently being embraced by its traditional socialist allies in Eastern Europe.

Despite a continuing shortage of hard currency and expected disruptions in trade with East European socialist countries, Cuba is aiming for economic growth of between one and two per cent in 1990.

Laws passed by Cuba's national assembly set out broad economic targets for 1990 while acknowledging the island's sugar-based economy faced serious obstacles.

"In 1990, even more difficult conditions will prevail because the availability of freely convertible currency will continue to be limited and this will be combined with possible complications in trade with socialist countries," read an accompanying commentary for one of the laws passed.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Dec. 23, '89 and ending Wednesday Dec. 27, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Saturday Dec. 23, '89 and ending Wednesday Dec. 27, '89 (figures in Jordanian Dinars)					
Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	998935	1697886	1.640	1.700	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	3258	8568	2.530	2.550	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	4005	5525	1.370	1.380	1.000
Housing Bank	204486	433278	2.100	2.060	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Cairo Amman Bank	20000	540000	25.750	27.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	2415	33910	14.000	14.000	10.000
Arab Bank	2270	474790	210.000	208.500	1.000
Jordan National Bank	22270	56813	2.520	2.540	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	600	1989	3.260	3.340	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	24806	47966	1.930	1.940	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	28117	69841	2.520	2.470	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	2.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	2065	1878	0.920	0.930	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	40250	76275	1.810	1.900	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	12755	22245	1.780	1.750	1.000
Jordan Insurance	4300	10750	2.550	2.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	550	992	1.860	1.800	1.000
Philadelphina Insurance	650	932	1.460	1.480	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	25293	26071	1.450	1.480	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	218	357	1.650	1.630	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	140	237	1.690	1.690	1.000
National Ahliah Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgium Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	1200	2068	1.590	1.750	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	4780	4923	1.040	1.030	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaroo)	527703	464053	0.850	0.890	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	590285	323969	0.540	0.560	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	15100	5733	0.900	0.870	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	6069	8866	1.470	1.460	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	1000	680	0.650	0.680	1.000
Arab International Hotels	101573	162905	1.600	1.600	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	22350	13827	0.630	0.620	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	150	710	4.500	4.730	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	64186	172346	2.640	2.700	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	11390	45345	4.000	3.950	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	22690	45974	2.080	2.000	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Dairy	108461	179322	1.620	1.700	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	18496	96017	5.100	5.200	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	125089	360649	2.830	2.920	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	18760	84870	4.280	4.550	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intag)	48785	138669	2.760	2.850	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	6257	41464	6.600	6.750	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	279598	393822	1.610	1.710	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	94427	140098	3.650	3.570	1.000
Alsidkin Industries	94375	267203	2.820	2.830	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	5000	26740	5.300	5.360	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	9200	20411	3.300	3.270	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	44550	135189	2.930	3.110	1.000
Chemical Industries	291400	543944	1.890	1.890	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	29917	119950	4.100	4.000	1.000
National Steel Industries	28905	83081	2.850	2.900	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	3800	20239	5.530	5.520	1.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4861	39507	8.210	8.120	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Industries	6736	7193	1.120	1.100	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	47791	28666	0.560	0.670	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	348997	271687	0.810	0.760	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	1250	4525	3.700	3.600	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	52291	178854	3.420	3.430	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	150	366	2.440	2.440	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1765	12252	6.750	7.050	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	155057	482971	3.210	3.320	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Oricat Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	21102	31865	1.590	1.590	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	600	2460	4.100	4.100	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	109900	269553	2.430	2.480	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	39860	211170	5.440	5.400	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	79305	227886	2.880	2.880	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	96354	271351	2.790	2.860	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	149391	167416	1.180	1.130	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	122519	172925	1.410	1.420	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	193147	134902	0.710	0.680	1.000
National Quarry	200	200	1.000	1.000	1.000
Grand total	5,349,405	9,949,619			

Gullit resumes light training

LAN, Italy (AP) — Dutch star Rudi Gullit has begun exercises following a third operation on his long and right knee, but AC Milan said Friday a complete recovery looks distant.

Club sources indicated that Gullit, the captain of the Dutch national team and one of Milan's top forwards, would miss the opening part of the Italian league season and the World Cup next June.

Gullit and the club must be patient, not to compromise healing of the knee, said Milan doctor Giovanni Battista Monti.

He added that Gullit will have undergone medical tests within a month before intensifying his training. Monti declined to say when Gullit may resume playing, but club sources indicated he is expected to return before the end of May.

Gullit has been sidelined with knee problems since last June, and Milan recently decided to postpone a three-year extension of his contract, which would cost



Rudi Gullit

the Italian club about \$10 million. "I can't blame Milan for its decision. But for sure I will be back into action and Milan will sign me again," Gullit said on his arrival in Milan Wednesday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TOO EASY TO MAKE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 5 4 2
♥ A K 3
♦ J 2
♣ 10 5

EAST
♠ Void
♥ 7 6 4 2
♦ Q 10 9 8 4
♣ K J 8 6

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 8 6 3
♥ 8 5
♦ A K 7 5 3
♣ A

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

All too often we have seen a declarer exhibit exemplary technique on a tough hand, then go down on one which should have presented no problem. This example is from a rubber bridge game.

North had to decide whether, as a passed hand, he should jump to game or simply bid three spades in response to partner's third-seat, one-spade opening, which might be shaded. We are by nature conservative, so we lean to three spades; but

we have no quarrel with North's choice.

West attacked with a heart honor, taken in dummy. Declarer led a spade, and was not particularly bothered when East showed out. West took his three trump tricks and continued with another heart to the remaining honor in dummy.

When West showed out on the second diamond, declarer suddenly realized he was between a rock and a hard place. He had three losing diamonds in hand, and only two trumps remaining in dummy. The defenders made no error in discarding, so the result was down one.

Since declarer had no losers in the plain suits, he should have been willing to concede three trump tricks. That's easy enough to accomplish as long as trumps are not touched.

After winning the first trick, declarer should cash the ace-king of diamonds. Suppose West ruffs with the jack and cashes his high trumps. There would still be three trumps on the table to take care of the diamond losers. And if West does not ruff, declarer simply continues cashing winners and ruffing. No matter what West does, he cannot get more than his three trump tricks, and the contract is safe.

THE Daily Crossword

by Dorothea E. Shipp

ACROSS

- 1 Spaghetti and ravioli
- 2 A one
- 3 TV item
- 4 "No — beauty" hair such
- 5 (Don't)
- 6 Dress fashion
- 7 "Woman —"
- 8 Delicacies
- 9 Retelling sound
- 10 Garment of old
- 11 Near gruff
- 12 Mum
- 13 Gyna's mother
- 14 "Woman"
- 15 Pel
- 16 Part of the
- 17 "Cuckoo"
- 18 Sibling of it
- 19 Dye
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. Spaghetti and ravioli

2. A one

3. TV item

4. "No — beauty" hair such

5. (Don't)

6. Dress fashion

7. "Woman —"

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Poland becomes democracy, strips Communists of lead role

WARSAW (R) — Poland has wrapped up its historic switch to democracy, stripping the Communist Party of its leading role and proclaiming itself "a democratic state ruled by law."

By a vote of 374-1 with 11 abstentions, parliament Friday abolished constitutional clauses defining Poland a Socialist state, dropped the Stalinist title Polish People's Republic introduced in 1952 and restored the pre-war name Republic of Poland.

In a further gesture of immense symbolism to Poles, it also gave back to the white eagle, the national emblem, the crown removed by the Communists when they seized power at the end of World War II.

Led by a jubilant Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Solidarity prime

minister, parliamentary deputies stood emotionally to sing the national anthem after their vote swept away the trappings of Stalinism and capped a momentous year of change for Poland.

The vote made Poland the fourth East European country after Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany to strip the Communist Party of its leading role in the state.

It also deleted the first two chapters of the 1952 constitution that outlined the political and economic system as socialist, replacing them with articles defining Poland as a democracy.

Other new clauses established the right to create political parties "on the basis of freedom and legality" and guaranteed freedom of economic activity for all, including private business.

The changes were pushed through hurriedly to bring the constitution in line with the spirit of economic reforms intended to make Poland in 1990 the first East European country to switch to a free market economy.

The senate (upper house) Friday approved a package of economic reforms voted by the Sejm (lower house) Thursday. The reforms, which take effect on Jan. 1, include banking changes and other measures to set up capitalist structures in Poland.

Communist deputies, who comprise 38 per cent of the 460-member Sejm, at first opposed some of the constitutional changes but dropped objections at the last minute and voted for them alongside Solidarity.

The Communists, who are expected to liquidate their party next month and replace it with a new modern leftist party, had protested that dropping reference to socialism from the constitution amounted to changing the nature of the state without due consideration.

U.N. deplors U.S. action in Panama

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. General Assembly has adopted a resolution deploring the U.S. military intervention in Panama but the vote was less than resounding rebuke to the United States.

While the resolution passed easily by 75 to 20, fewer than half the 159 member states supported it. A total of 40 countries abstained and another 24 did not participate at all.

Several countries who voted in favour, such as Spain and Austria, voiced reservations that the resolution was unbalanced and made no mention of the need for democracy in Panama.

But the majority voting agreed the U.S. invasion was an infringement of sovereignty on the rights of a small nation and violated the U.N. Charter on non-intervention.

There were exceptions among all the geographical groupings in the United Nations, especially among the 101-member Non-Aligned bloc of nations. For example, in North Africa, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco abstained while Libya and Algeria supported the resolution.

Most Central and South American countries voted for the document. However, El Salvador voted against and Costa Rica and Honduras abstained.

The United States drew most of its support from Western European nations as well as Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, who cast negative votes.

Spain, Austria, Sweden and Finland, however, supported the resolution while Greece and Ireland abstained.

In Eastern Europe, all countries voted with the Soviet Union in favour except for Poland, which abstained.

A similar resolution was vetoed Saturday in the more politically powerful Security Council by the United States, Britain and France, although a majority of the council, including the Soviet Union and China, supported it.

The resolution "strongly deplors" the intervention in Panama by the United States as a "flagrant violation of international law and of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states."

7 killed when 2 planes collide in New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — Six Japanese tourists and their New Zealand pilot were killed when their light aircraft collided with another small plane in southern New Zealand Saturday, police said.

The seven passengers and pilot aboard the second plane landed safely after the accident near the Milford Sound.

"The light aircraft operated by Air Fiordland crashed into the deepest part of Milford Sound in the Stirling Falls area, and is irretrievable at this stage," constable Alan Christie of the Queenstown Police said. "It is lying in approximately 300 metres of water. Two bodies have been recovered."

Christie said he did not know the reason for the crash or whether it was due to weather conditions. He said there were no survivors from the first plane.

"No names will be available for some time," he said, adding that the pilot killed was from the area.

The crash took place at about 3.30 p.m. (0230 GMT) above Milford Sound in south west New Zealand. The district is famous for its spectacular mountains and fjords.

Christie said he believed the collision occurred minutes after the Air Fiordland plane had taken off from the Milford township airport.

"It had left Milford and was on the return trip to Queenstown. I don't know what the other plane was doing — whether it was taking off or landing. I can't honestly say," he said.

A spokesman for Air Fiordland said weather conditions in the often hazardous area were good, but he declined further comment.

A spokesman for Milford Sound Scenic Services, whose plane landed safely after the accident, said both aircraft were headed in the same direction.

"As far as I know the other pilot didn't have much experience, but that will come out in the inquiry," he said.

COLUMN 8

Special carpet laid in Sistine Chapel

VATICAN CITY (R) — Special anti-static carpets have been laid in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel in a plan to safeguard Michelangelo's 16th century frescoes, the Vatican Museum has said. An air conditioning system to maintain humidity at a constant level and special "cold" lights will also be installed in the chapel, where the first full project to clean and restore the ceiling and wall paintings is expected to be completed in 1992.

Vatican Museums Director Carlo Pietrangeli firmly denied reports in some Italian newspapers that the Vatican was considering restricting access for the 4,000 visitors a day who visit the Sistine Chapel. "We have never even considered restricting access at all. No one has ever spoken of it," Pietrangeli said. He said work was about to start on the third and final phase of the project — the restoration of the "Last Judgment" wall fresco which Michelangelo painted between 1534 and 1541, 20 years after completing the ceiling. The \$3-million restoration project, financed by a Japanese television network, began in 1980 and is the first time the paintings have been properly cleaned.

No power for anti-Marxists, China warns

PEKING (R) — China, shaken by the swift overthrow of long-time Romanian ally Nicolae Ceausescu, said Saturday that only Marxist loyalists could lead its Communist Party and government.

Party chief Jiang Zemin warned that there could be no place in authority for people disloyal to Marxism and urged China's "invaluable" ruling party to smash "reactionary" forces abroad.

The official People's Daily Saturday devoted half its front page to a speech by Jiang declaring that revolutionary ardour was needed to take China through an "extremely critical time."

Diplomats said his headline speech was clearly a reaction to events in Romania where the Communist government of Ceausescu — an "old friend" of China — was toppled by a popular revolt last week.

Insecurity deepened by Ceausescu's execution has driven China's leaders to reinforce strident Communist orthodoxy, reversing a gentler tone towards the West seen earlier this month after the visit of high-level U.S. officials, the diplomats added.

Premier Li Peng, also reflecting concern over the Romanian upheaval, urged paramilitary police Thursday to strengthen vigilance against "enemies" who wanted to sabotage socialism.

He thanked some 300 senior members of the People's Armed Police for their role in crushing China's pro-democracy unrest in May and June but urged them to prepare for a lengthy struggle. Peking remains under martial law.

Communist leaders have instructed the party rank and file on the "correct" interpretation of

events in Romania and have privately blamed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for the stunning developments in Eastern Europe, described here as a subversion of socialism.

"The authority of leadership in the party and the country must be held in the hands of people who are loyal to Marxism," read a banner headline in the People's Daily over Jiang's speech.

Marxism had slowly receded into the background during the last decade, as economic reforms elevated efficiency and profit to primacy over ideology.

But hardline leaders have sought to tighten their grip on power since crushing the mass anti-government protests in June and Marxist doctrines are back in vogue.

Jiang said that from now on, people must be employed, elected and trained with the

prime aim of promoting revolutionary ardour or Marxism.

After that, he added, they can learn enough science and culture to be useful to China's modernisation.

The party needs such ideological reinvigoration, said Jiang, because its "meat and blood" relationship with the people has been wounded by corruption and the opportunism of hostile forces at home and abroad.

"The party must again show forth our invincible strength in smashing international reactionary forces," said Jiang. "Our party has plentiful experience in fighting imperialists and all kinds of opportunists."

China has vehemently blamed foreign forces working with a "very small number" of Chinese for fomenting the unprecedented unrest last spring and summer.

China and Britain have often clashed over Hong Kong since June, especially over Peking's insistence that it will station units of the People's Liberation Army there after 1997.

Peking has also repeatedly said it will not tolerate activities in Hong Kong which subvert China's socialist system.

At the same time it has sought to reassure the colony's 5.7 million population that its capitalist system will be allowed to exist for at least 50 years after China takes over.

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China blasts U.K. over Hong Kong proposal

PEKING (R) — China accused Britain Saturday of breaking a "solemn commitment" in saying it will grant full British citizenship to 50,000 Hong Kong residents.

It urged London to reverse its decision and threatened to take unspecified "corresponding measures."

"This course of action by the British government is a gross violation of its own solemn commitment," the New China News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

"The Chinese side asks the British government to set store by

the overall interest and change its above-mentioned mistaken practice," it said.

Britain's promise this month would allow an estimated 225,000 Hong Kong Chinese the right to settle in the United Kingdom in the run up to 1997, when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule.

Hong Kong's government has argued the plan would provide an insurance policy for some citizens scared of imminent Chinese rule and restore confidence shaken after China's army crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking in June.

But the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Britain's action disregards commitments it made in the Sino-British joint declaration five years ago, which stipulates conditions of Hong Kong's handover.

London's move would be detrimental to the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong and had already caused considerable confusion, he said. He asked Britain to reconsider.

"Otherwise, it will have to bear a series of consequences arising therefrom. The Chinese side reserves the right to take corresponding measures thereby."

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Gorbachev named man of the year

LONDON (AP) — British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) listeners have chosen Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev man of the year, giving him three times as many votes as runner-up Sir Anthony Meyer, the British lawmaker who challenged Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the Conservative Party leadership. It was the second year Gorbachev has won the contest sponsored by BBC radio Four's "Today" public affairs programme. Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, placed third in this year's poll, down from second last year, the BBC said Saturday. The BBC does not disclose the number of votes cast for each candidate.

6 skiers die in giant avalanche

BRIG, Switzerland (AP) — Six Swiss skiers were killed in a huge avalanche striking in the Mt. Simpon region in southwestern Switzerland Friday, rescue officials reported Saturday. Their bodies were found by a helicopter-borne search party near the 3,010-metre Simnel Pass late Friday. Officials said the victims had been engulfed by a 300-metre-wide snowslide. A search for the five youths and their guide was called Friday night when they failed to return from a two-day Alpine tour. Officials said two of the youths apparently had been able to free themselves from the masses of snow but then died of exposure and exhaustion. It was the deadliest Swiss avalanche since six Dutch tourists died near Mt. San Lorenzo in the eastern Swiss Canton of Grisons in April 1988.

Plant fire disrupts New York City

NEW YORK (R) — A huge fire from a ruptured gas pipeline in New York City sent flames shooting hundreds of feet into the air Friday, cutting electricity to thousands of homes and causing chaos in the city's transport system. The spectacular blaze at an electrical transmission plant fed by the pipeline needed nearly 300 firemen to control it and disrupted the commuting plans of more than half a million people. A fire department spokesman said the blaze, at about 1 p.m. EST (1800 GMT), erupted at Consolidated Edison's Helgate facility in the south east Bronx. The spokesman said a backhoe operator who probably breached the pipeline was killed in the fire and seven people were injured.

Cold kills 75 in India, Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — At least 75 people, many of them homeless, have died in the cold wave that has gripped northern India and Bangladesh for the last three days, news reports said Saturday. Temperatures plummeted to near-freezing levels, chilling people who have little in the way of clothing or shelter to cope with the brief winter in this normally hot, sunny region. At least nine more deaths were reported Friday in Bangladesh, bringing the toll to 44 since Wednesday, newspapers in Dhaka said. In India, 20 people have died of the cold in northern Bihar state since Wednesday night, United News of India reported from Patna, the state capital. Seven people, including four beggars, died of cold in the same period in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh state, Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Queen honours writer, actress and heroes of Lockerbie

LONDON (AP) — Britain gave V.S. Naipaul a knighthood Saturday, made actress Maggie Smith a dame, and honoured the rescuers who worked in the wreckage of Pan Am Flight 103.

The colony of Hong Kong, to return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, also was heavily represented on Queen Elizabeth II's semi-annual honours list, which is compiled by the government. The queen carries out the investiture of the honours at a later ceremony.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange, whose strong anti-nuclear stance was at odds with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's, was made a companion of honour, a prestigious order headed by the queen and never numbering more than 65 members.

Lange, 47, resigned in August after five years as head of a Labour government, citing health reasons.

Naipaul, the 57-year-old Trinidad-born writer, was made a knight bachelor. The author of *In a Free State*, a *Bend in the River* and *Enigma of Arrival* came to Britain at age 17 on scholarship to

Oxford University and has become one of this country's most important writers.

The honour entitles him to call himself Sir Vidadiar, but his work always appears with his initials.

Descended from a high-caste Indian family that emigrated to Trinidad as indentured labourers, Naipaul grew up in a tightly knit Hindu family. This background is reflected in his writing about rootlessness, being an alien, even when visiting his ancestral home in India, which he described in an *Area of Darkness*.

Maggie Smith, 55, one of Britain's finest stage actresses, and who won a U.S. Academy Award for the film *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, was made a Dame Commander of the Order of British Empire, the equivalent of a knighthood for a woman.

Another actor honoured was Michael Gambon, most widely known to television audiences for his lead role in the *Singing Detective*, but also one of the most admired of London's stage actors. Gambon, 49, was made a CBE or Commander of the British Empire.

Many of the 947 awards made in the New Year list went to emergency service workers who toiled at Lockerbie, Scotland after Flight 103 exploded and crashed on Dec. 21, 1988, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

A Queen's Police Medal went to inspector George Stobbs, a long-serving local policeman who consoled many of the relatives who arrived at the remote Scottish village.

An MBE award to Eleanor Wilson, who, with her catering staff, provided up to 3,000 meals a day from temporary cafeterias and kept search and rescue teams going with tea, coffee and snacks around the clock.

Another MBE went to William Parr, secretary of local Search and Rescue Dogs' Association whose animals were used in the long and widespread search for bodies.

John Boyd, the former chief constable of the Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, was made a CBE.

Among the OBES, or Officers of the Order of British Empire,

was Dr. Awni Lufy, a pathologist who had to identify the bodies of the victims.

A Queen's Police Medal went to Superintendent Angus Kennedy of Strathclyde Police, responsible for relations between the police and the news media the night of the disaster, who was honoured for "his calm and immensely professional manner ... under the quite exceptional pressures from the media on that night."

Kennedy heard of his honour after a 70-year-old neighbour cycled three kilometres in a gale to his vacation cottage on the Hebridean Island of Coll to summon him the phone.

"This comes as a surprise and a very great honour and reflects the tremendous work done by the police media team at Lockerbie," Kennedy said.

More than 20 honours went to Hong Kong people, topped by a knighthood for Justice Derek Fong of the Hong Kong Court of Appeal. There was a CBE for Li Kwan-Ha, the colony's police commissioner and nine awards for public and community service.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Effensohn

FIELDER'S CHOICE

Stanley B. Whitte

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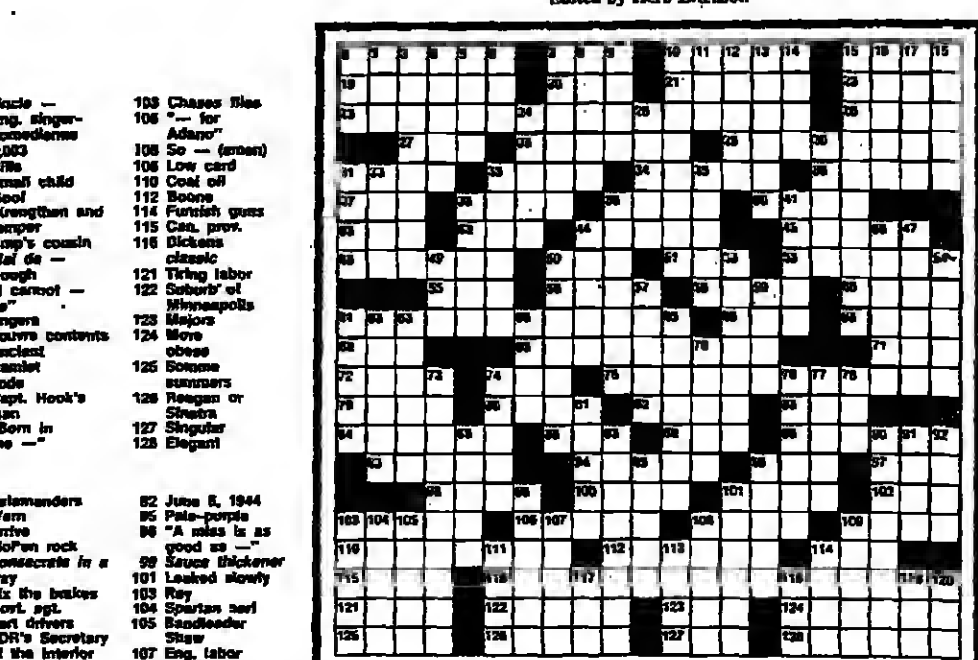
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Diagrams

19 X 19, By Adam Christopher

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Last Week's Cryptograms

- Monday is always an awful day for work, particularly when two of them are packed into the same week.